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10 IN A ROW

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DUFFY TRIAL

WHAT THE PMO KNEW

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MINI-ME

NEW TORONTO SELFIE STUDIO MADE THIS 3D MODEL OF METRO'S LUKE SIMCOE — AND IT CAN MAKE ONE OF YOU, TOO

Story in metroNEWS

Drake's OVO Fest faces ban

VIOLENCE

Exhibition Place isn't the spot for the urban music party: Councillor

Since debuting in 2010, hip-hop megastar Drake's OVO Fest, featuring some of the biggest celebrities in urban music, has become one of the most popular events on the summer concert calendar.

But at least three members of the Exhibition Place board of governors think the OVO Fest after-party should no longer be held at Muzik, a nightclub that leases a city-owned building on the grounds of Exhibition Place.

Last week, two people were fatally shot and three others wounded after attending the after-party. The event followed Drake's sixth-annual three-day music festival, held at the nearby Molson Amphitheatre. No one has yet been charged.

"It's just heart-wrenching this would happen anywhere in the city, let alone Exhibition Place," said Connie Dejak, vice-chair of the board of governors Wednesday. "You feel the burden of responsibility as a board member. It weighs really heavily on you when really bad things happen to good people."

Dejak believes board members need to sit down with Muzik owner Zlatko Starkovski and ask him: "'How would you feel if you gave this up voluntarily?' Because that's his business. Is there something else or another direction we can support you in?"

This year's violence was not the first associated with the OVO Fest after-party. Last summer, a man was shot leaving the party. In February 2013, 19-year-old Naveed Shahnawaz was shot to death outside the venue after trying to intervene in a fight. His estate is suing Muzik.

Coun. Jim Karygiannis, who also sits on the board of governors, said the latest gunplay was the last straw. He is asking fellow board members to support a motion asking the general manager of Exhibition Place to report, at the Oct. 23 board of governors meeting, on a possible ban of OVO Fest and similar events.

Dejak said she isn't against the city having nightclubs on its property, nor does she want Muzik closed.

"That's a great spot for it … it's not nestled in a little neighborhood where people are complaining the noise is too loud, there's no parking. I think our site is a great spot."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Credit is a manufacturer to consumer incentive (tax inclusive) and credit value depends on model purchased: $500 credit available on Chevrolet Spark, Sonic, Cruze, Volt, Trax, Malibu (except LS), Buick Encore and Verano; $750 credit available on others Chevrolet, Buick and GMC vehicles (except Colorado 2SA, Camaro Z28, Malibu LS, Silverado Light Duty and Heavy Duty, Canyon 2SA, Sierra Light Duty and Heavy Duty). $1,000 credit available on Cadillac vehicles (except 2015 Cadillac Escalade) and $1,000 on all Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra. Offer is transferable to a family member living within the same household (proof of address required). As part of the transaction, dealer may request documentation and contact General Motors of Canada Limited (GMCL) to verify eligibility. This offer may not be redeemed for cash and may not be combined with certain other consumer incentives. Certain limitations or conditions apply. Void where prohibited. See your GMCL dealer for details. 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This octopus is just like us. **World**

150 crocodilians snapped up

ANIMAL WELFARE

Curator: This may be biggest rescue of its kind in Canada

Bry Loyst spent hours wrestling illegal pet crocodiles in Toronto last weekend. That's right: crocodiles.

The curator of the Indian River Reptile Zoo and a small group of volunteers carefully wrestled, muzzled and removed about 150 pet crocodiles, alligators and caimans from their mystery Toronto-area home on Friday, quietly whisking them away in four large transport trucks to a new reptile facility just east of Peterborough.

"It's nuts," Loyst said Monday of what he believes could be the largest crocodilian rescue of its kind in Canada. Days after the rescue, the zoo still needed volunteers to unload and move the last of the reptile army to its spacious new crocodile-friendly enclosure.

He said a Toronto couple had been looking after the horde of reptiles and kept them as pets for "years and years and years" in a mixed residential and industrial area of the city.

Then, two years ago, Loyst said, the couple asked the reptile zoo for help. The city prohibits owning crocodiles as pets, as it does bears, elephants, poisonous animals and other exotic creatures.

"I think (the owners) just realized that enough is enough and they need a larger place," Loyst said. "Kudos to them. A lot of people don't do the right thing with exotic pets, and they actually did."

Most of the 400 animals at the zoo, in addition to the new arrivals, are rescues that had been abandoned, imported illegally or seized in drug busts, but many haven't been taken care of as well as the Torontonian crocodilians.

"The individual that looked after them did a really good job considering the situation and the housing," Loyst said. "Most of the animals are in great health. They don't have much muscle tone, obviously, because they can't move much, but they're fairly healthy. We're really impressed."

He said the host of rescued crocodiles, alligators and caimans, which includes several species, also ranges in age and length, with some reptiles measuring a metre long and others about 3.5 metres.

Staff at the City of Toronto's Animal Services division said they didn't know of any recent complaints or reports of an investigation into a home with crocodiles.

Fiona Venedam, a supervisor with Animal Services, said news of the 150 crocodilians kept in Toronto was unexpected. She added that complaints about prohibited animals are unusual.

Loyst and the Indian River Reptile Zoo won't say where in Toronto they recovered the reptiles, but the curator said the owners helped the zoo pay for an expansion of its crocodilian rescue facility, an area of the zoo that is not yet open to the public and is needed to house the extra animals.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bry Loyst with an alligator (not one of the recently rescued ones) at Indian River Reptile Zoo east of Peterborough on Tuesday.

FRED THORNHILL/
FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CITY'S COMPLAINTS

1,527. Complaints received by the city since 1998 about prohibited animals, such as pot-bellied pigs, chickens, snakes, alligators, lizards and raccoons.

2014. Year city staff received an anaconda from an owner who had kept the snake in an apartment.

2013. Year Animal Services became aware of a caiman at a business that didn't "traditionally sell animals" in the city.

2012. Year staff investigated a complaint about a kangaroo and lemur. The owner later admitted the animals had been moved out of Toronto before the city's investigation began.

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The one-stop shop for Parapan Am repair jobs

SPORT

Technicians on hand to fix up and replace equipment

Athlete Sairo Fernandez Lopez from Colombia drops off his race bike on Aug. 9 at the shop in the Parapan Am Athletes' Village. MARTA IWANEK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

On Monday, Sairo Fernandez Lopez won gold in the men's 100-metre T54 at the Parapan Am Games.

On Sunday, his racing chair was cracked.

Luckily for the Colombian athletics team, a certified welder sits at the ready for moments such as these.

Steps from the Athletes' Village medical clinic, a team of technicians revives the wheelchairs and prosthetic limbs that enable the bodies of para-athletes.

Within 40 minutes of arriving at the repair shop Sunday afternoon, Fernandez Lopez's chair was patched up and ready to roll.

The service, provided by Otto Bock, is open to anyone staying at the village. But game-day equipment takes priority.

"It's basically like triaging at an ER," said Cindy Doucet, who works at Otto Bock's Burlington office and runs the front desk at the shop. "We have to really focus on competition devices first."

Doucet and a team of wheelchair and prosthetic makers occupy two trailers and a makeshift workshop in the lobby of a village residence.

Spread across the carpeted floor, their work awaits: A wheelchair three centimetres too tall must be cut to meet regulations. A ripped seat pad needs sewing. A pair of crutches wiggles with every step.

What can't be repaired — the crutches, for one — is replaced.

Seemingly small repairs can have a major impact, Doucet said, like finally shaking a stone free from a shoe.

"Maybe they've been walking on a device that's been missing a screw for six to eight months, and that makes all the difference to the alignment," she said. "They're so happy. They're so grateful."

Like an ER, the team comes equipped with supplies. Boxes full of spare wheelchair tires, screws and sheets of leather sit alongside more advanced equipment, such as the oven used to heat plastic to a mouldable temperature for new prosthetics.

Though not always the case, the International Paralympic Committee is footing the bill for all repairs and replacements at the Parapan Ams. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

COMPETITION

Versatile prosthetic knee a winner

Jessica Smith Cross
Metro | Toronto

A Toronto-based company will be delivering new knees to 200 amputees in developing countries thanks to a Parapan Am Games-affiliated technology competition.

LegWorks has created a mechanical prosthetic knee with a unique function that locks it in place to provide stability when standing still and unlocks to allow for a natural walking motion when on the move, CEO Emily Mochizuki Lutyens explained.

That means the AT-Knee occupies a unique space in the marketplace, Mochizuki Lutyens said.

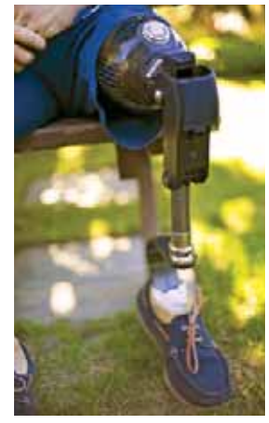
Since it's mechanical, it's less complex than other knees that use micro-processors or hydraulics to allow stability and movement. Plus, it's cheaper than those options.

Other purely mechanical knees are cheaper but have limited functions and typically only work at one walking speed, Mochizuki Lutyens said.

Being able to walk at more than one speed means amputees can continue to use the knee as they progress through the rehabilitation process.

That's why it won the accessibility tech competition organized by the Ontario Centres of Excellence, a body funded by the provincial government, in conjunction with the Parapan Am Games.

One aspect of the competition was its interactive showcase where the public had a chance to learn about and try the technology first-hand, said Mochizuki Lutyens.



"We had simulator, where you could actually strap on a socket to your leg and experience our knee, even if you weren't an amputee," she said.

The competition came with a $20,000 prize, which LegWorks will use to fit amputees in need around the world.

Brandon Burke, co-founder and director of partnership development for LegWorks, has been wearing and helping to perfect the company's award-winning prosthetic knee joint for over two years. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

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Tory urged to put some rings on it

OLYMPICS

Toronto poised to launch bid for 2024 Games

Canadian Olympic leaders and people hopeful that Toronto could host its first-ever Summer Games in 2024 are courting Mayor John Tory to jump-start the bidding process.

It's believed Tory is poised to sign off on putting Toronto's name in the ring, following a successful Pan Am Games and new relaxed rules handed down by the International Olympic Committee.

But the mayor continued to have many questions about the process as he met with Canadian Olympic Committee (COC) president Marcel Aubut and Toronto's 2008 Olympic bid organizer Bob Richardson at city hall Tuesday.

Richardson, a well-connected Liberal credited with bringing in all three levels of government support for Toronto's unsuccessful 2008 bid, was also co-chair of Tory's successful mayoral bid this past fall and is one of his longtime advisors.

Tory's office confirmed the meeting, saying he was "briefed on the changes to the bid process" recently announced by the International Olympic Committee and also given background on previous Toronto bids.

"This is part of the consultation and due diligence the mayor committed to undertake," said his spokeswoman, Keerthana Kamalavasan. But she said Tory has yet to make any decision on whether to sign his name — and sign up Toronto — ahead of a Sept. 15 deadline.

To be considered part of a bidding process, each potential host city must first send a letter expressing interest, along with a $150,000 US fee, promised in Toronto's case by the COC.

Several questions remain for government leaders and bid hopefuls about whether Toronto can launch a successful campaign supported by Toronto residents. But the relaxed IOC rules are believed to significantly reduce the cost of a bid, which in the past has been estimated at upwards of $75 million.

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METROLINX

Olive Dodds, a volunteer at Toronto East General Hospital, had a party for her 105th birthday in the lobby of the building.

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

CENTENARIAN

Birthday girl isn't too old to volunteer

When Olive Dodds was born, the Maple Leafs didn't yet exist and one of the tallest skyscrapers in Toronto was only 15 storeys high.

More than 100 people filled the lobby of Toronto East General Hospital on Tuesday to throw a birthday bash for Dodds, the hospital's 105-year-old volunteer, who was formerly a nurse in her native England.

She was born to a music shop owner and his wife in Gateshead, near Newcastle, on Aug. 12, 1910. Her earliest memory is of seeing a German Zeppelin crash and burn when she was five during the First World War.

She has one daughter, two grandchildren and "one and a half" great-grandchildren. She's among the 7,900 people across the country who are more than 100 years old, according to Statistics Canada. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Ben Corpuz used to work for an agency and now advocates for stronger regulation of agencies who abuse temporary workers. MELISSA RENWICK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Temp firms break laws

LABOUR

Three-quarters found to be in violation by ministry

Almost 75 per cent of temporary agencies audited by the Ministry of Labour this year broke the law — with the top three offenders based in the GTA, according to a detailed breakdown requested by Torstar News Service.

Of the 50 temp agencies visited by the ministry in its latest inspection blitz, just 13 were violation-free. The remaining 37 failed to live up to a range of their duties under the Employment Standards Act including paying overtime, public holiday pay and vacation pay.

The violations have "significant financial consequences on employees who are probably low-income to begin with," said Avvy Go, director of the Metro Toronto Chinese and Southeast Asian Legal Clinic.

Universal Workforce of Mississauga was slapped with 12 compliance orders, the highest number of all agencies inspected. Its infractions included nonpayment of wages, shoddy record keeping and excess hours of work.

"If there was a weakness with our company, we did upgrade it," said the agency's manager Raff Shan. "We are going the right way after this audit."

Toronto's Winters Technical Staffing and North York's Penguin Event Staffing were issued eight orders each for violations such as illegal deductions from worker's wages.

Penguin manager Dennis Ahelawan said his agency was contesting the ministry's orders in court and could not comment while litigation was ongoing. Winters Technical Staffing did not respond to the Star's requests for comment.

According to the ministry, all the agencies voluntarily paid back the money owed to workers and corrected their violations. In total, the ministry issued 121 compliance orders to agencies and recovered more than $38,500 owed to almost 3,000 employees.

But of the 37 offending agencies, just four were actually fined for flouting the law.

The ministry's last pro-active inspection of temp agencies took place in 2013. That audit, which examined 105 agencies, also found three-quarters in violation of the law.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

37

Agencies fell below standards, but...

4

...of them were fined for breaking the law.

GREEN P LOTS

Prepare to start paying more to park

Prices are rising at about 50 of Toronto's "Green P" parking lots, while on-street metered fees will probably go up soon, as well.

Toronto Parking Authority president Lorne Persiko said Wednesday that the TPA board voted in favour of the hikes at a July 30 meeting.

Persiko said a full list of the changes won't be available until next week. As an example, he said prices at the city hall garage are going from $2.50 to $2.75 per half-hour, and from $270 to $280 for monthly passes.

The hikes, to start coming into effect Sept. 8, will generate between $2 million and $2.5 million per year for the parking authority, he said.

Last year, TPA earned gross revenues of $129 million and gave $44,345,000 of that to the city treasury.

The hike for short-term parking at off-street lots is to offset inflation, Persiko said, while monthly rates are being increased to discourage purchase of those passes.

Sept. 8

The day the hikes will start coming into effect.

"Our target users are short-term parkers — we want people to be able to visit the stores and to do it affordably, and we have to make spaces available" if too many are being taken up by long-term users, he said.

Persiko said his agency will be talking to councillors this fall about recommended increases in some metered on-street spots. Unlike with off-street pricing, city council has final approval over any changes in the cost of on-street parking.

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EDUCATION

School board elects new chairwoman

Rookie trustee Robin Pilkey has been acclaimed as the new chairwoman of Canada's largest school board, after the resignation of Shaun Chen to run for the Liberals in Scarborough North in the federal election.

Pilkey, a chartered accountant and seasoned parent activist who chaired a lively west-end parent council under veteran trustee Irene Atkinson, was elected Wednesday at a special meeting of the Toronto District School Board.

Robin Pilkey TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"I approach the role with a strong sense of optimism. Yes, we have many challenges, but this board is up for it," said Pilkey after assuming her chair at the head of the boardroom.

"This board is a rich mosaic of trustees that together reflect the diversity of the students we represent."

Pilkey was the sole candidate among the board's 22 trustees, whose infighting has landed them in hot water with Queen's Park. The province tapped former Toronto mayor Barbara Hall to review how the board is governed and suggest whether changes to its size or way of operating might help it run more smoothly. That report is due shortly and will be one of the first challenges faced by the new chairwoman.

"I'm not saying things are perfect but I have a hard time finding fault with this board since the election," she said.

Given the board's deep backroom factions, Pilkey appeared the only trustee able to draw enough support from veteran and new trustees, and across the political spectrum.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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The Jays winning streak and playoff hopes have left fans scrambling for tickets in advance of this weekend's highly anticipated series with the Yankees. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Got to pay to see Jays

BASEBALL

Opportunists selling tickets for anywhere from $65-$10K

Jessica Smith Cross Metro | Toronto

The push for tickets to see the red-hot Jays continues in advance of this weekend's series with the New York Yankees.

With the home stand already sold out, the cheapest tickets on StubHub were selling for $65 late Wednesday — a 300 per cent markup.

It's extremely unusual, and not just for the Blue Jays, said Cameron Papp, communications manager for StubHub. More than 50 per cent of MLB tickets sell on StubHub for less than face value, he said.

So far, the most anyone's paid to catch a piece of the Jays-Yankees action was $1,000 for a pair of prime seats by the dugout.

The highest listed price on the site continues to be the 500-level nosebleeds seats someone is trying to sell for $10,000.

But "we don't expect them to sell for that high," Papp said.

Plus, the price for other tickets may come down if they aren't sold soon.

"Generally we see prices drop as it gets closer to the game and people try to unload their tickets," Papp said.

CAN'T GET A STEAL?

Even if you strike out this weekend, there are a few options:

Book a room. The Radisson Hotel in the Rogers Centre still has rooms available that overlook the field. It's not the same as taking in a game in the stadium, but if you pack snacks and drinks in advance, it's close. Plus, the chairs might be a little more comfortable.

Hit the bar. It sounds obvious, but there are plenty of sports bars in Toronto that will air the game — and several are offering game-day specials. Newbies to the Jays bandwagon might consider neighbourhood favourite Opera Bob's or Real Sports for its ginormous screens.

Go on a road trip. If it's the Jays-Yankees showdown that you really want to see, there is another chance. The Jays will be in New York for a series Sept. 10-13. Several companies offer bus trips with hotel packages.

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Founder Steve Cory, left, has been involved in 3D printing for more than four years. Much of his work has involved industrial prototyping or architecture models, but he's been moving towards more artistic and consumer-friendly products. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

Go figure: Selfies in 3D

SCULPTRAITS STUDIOS

Company's 137 cameras will help to create your mini me

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

A Toronto company is taking selfies to the next dimension. Sculptraits Studios will create a 3D model of you and turn it into a six-inch, full-colour figurine for $120.

"It began as a proof of concept. Could we scan and print a person?" said Steve Cory, Sculptraits founder and president of its parent company, Objex Unlimited.

Turns out, you can.

While other 3D selfie providers rely on handheld scanners or moving cameras, Sculptraits Studios (321 Davenport Rd.) opened in July boasting a booth equipped with more than 130 synchronized cameras. Not only does the technique allow Cory and his colleagues to capture subjects in motion, it also results in a surprisingly lifelike figurines.

"We had a singer come in and we had him sing in the booth. When we printed the model, you could see the muscles in his throat and neck working," Cory said.

Or, if likelife isn't your thing, designers at Sculptraits can insert props into your portrait or even alter your appearance. That means slimming down your mini me or, better yet: "We can turn you into a mutant monster demon if that's your thing," Cory said.

So far, the company has done 3D portraits for celebrities including Jeanne Beker and George Romero and captured skateboarders and local gymnasts in action. They even had one client who proposed to his partner with the cameras rolling.

"It was so amazing because we were able to capture their emotions in real time," Cory said.

PARAPAN PROMOTION

Sculptraits is partnering with the Parapan Am Games for an official selfie day.

Anyone who books a Thursday shoot at their Davenport Road studio will receive a discount and 10 per cent of the proceeds will be donated to the Canadian Paralympic Committee. Founder Steve Cory also hopes to shoot and model some Parapan athletes. "We admire the athletes a lot," he said. "And Paralympic athletes aren't in the spotlight as often as they should be."

So what does it feel like to have a mini-me?

Luke Simcoe undergoes the transformation process, having his image taken for the 3D selfie. LIZ BEDDALL/METRO

As a general rule, journalists are more comfortable behind the camera than in front of it. So, when I stepped into Sculptrait Studio's 3D photo booth and saw 137 lenses staring back at me, it definitely kicked my self-conscious meter up a few notches.

"Every side has to be your good side," Sculptraits founder Steve Cory joked after I expressed my anxiety.

Fortunately, the staff put me at ease and managed to get some candid shots. And I think that's the secret to taking a good 3D selfie. The cameras capture the intricacies of your posture and the emotion on your face, so if you can be yourself when the flash goes off, the tiny model you get the next day will actually look like you.

As for my miniature Lukes, I've decided to put at least one on my desk at work. I'll look at him before I head out on future assignments, and hopefully the smirk on his face will remind me to be a little less self-conscious. LUKE SIMCOE/METRO

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‘Age really doesn’t matter’ for neuroscience fanatic

PLAN CANADA

17-year-old Michael Liu named one of Top 20 Under 20

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Michael Liu has helped develop a new concept that could be used for cheaper, faster and more effective HIV tests.

He’s also worked on initiatives fighting stigma around mental health issues among youth and actively participated in research to help people recover after strokes.

Oh, and he’s only 17 — headed to Harvard University next week to start undergraduate studies in liberal arts.

Liu’s work, especially in the field of science, has earned him recognition from Plan Canada as one of this year’s Top 20 Under 20.

The non-profit, dedicated to improving the lives of children around the globe, recognizes young people across the country who are making a difference in a variety of fields.

For Liu, the award highlights that age isn’t an issue — be it young or old.

In an effort to complement his impressive credentials in science, Michael Liu will be studying liberal arts when he begins undergraduate work next week at Harvard University. CONTRIBUTED

“You grow up hearing a lot about kids can’t do this, kids can’t do that,” he said. “But with resources, people are motivated and dedicated about what they do. Age really doesn’t matter.”

Liu knows what he’s talking about.

He got immersed in neuroscience at a young age and, under supervision from a professor, worked with a team to develop a hydrogel capable of carrying stem cells into stroke-affected parts of the brain. The substance could help keep the cells alive and potentially help patients make a full recovery.

Last year, his research into HIV testing — with the potential of reducing the cost of a test from $50 to about 10 cents — won honours in a nationwide competition focused on biotechnology.

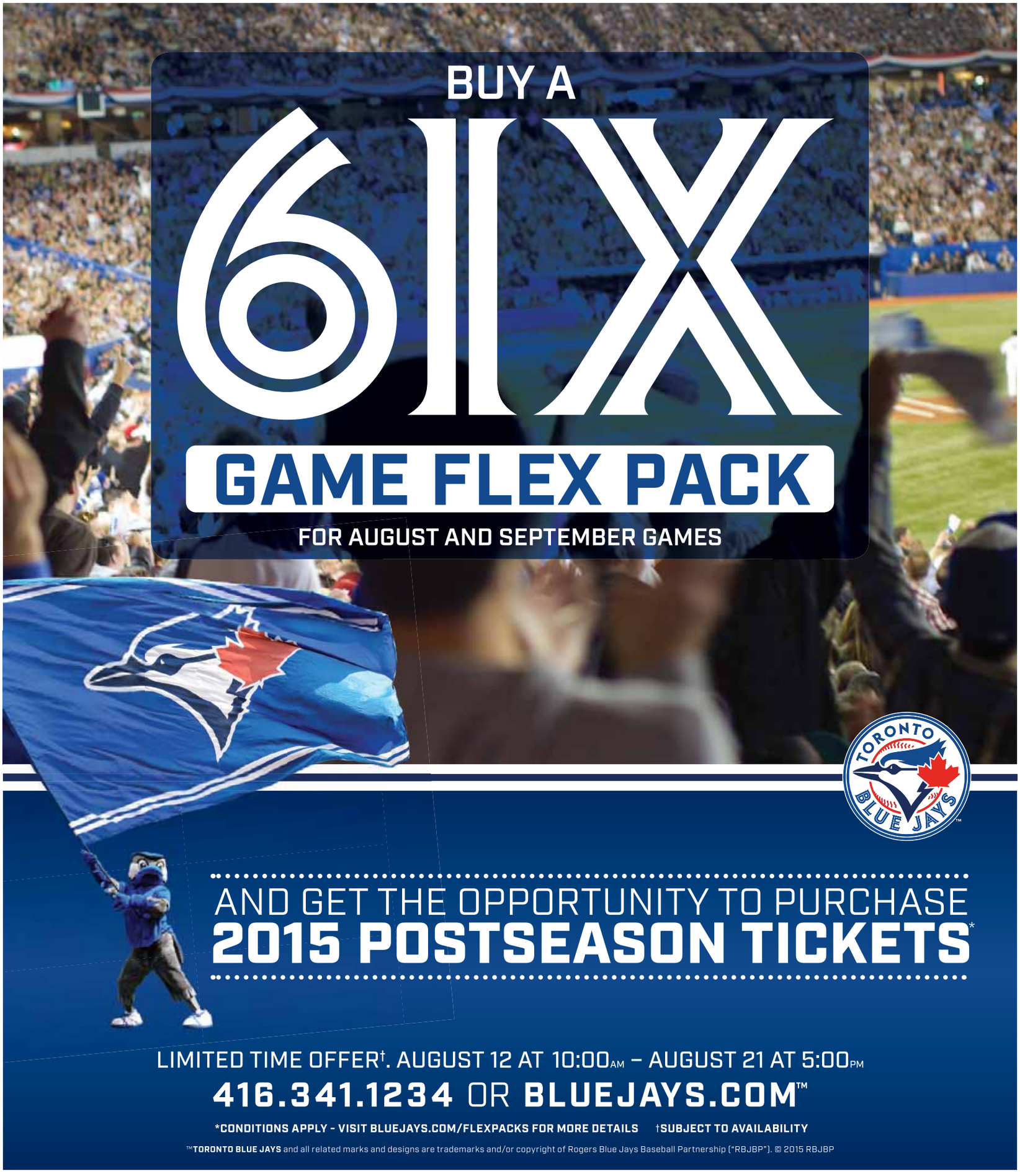
Liu plans to continue his projects into university and is thirsty to learn more.

“There’s so much great science work being done today, but there’s such a big issue with knowledge translation,” said Liu, with the hopes a degree in liberal arts will help him fill that void.

BRAINY GTA

Several other local teens found their way onto the Top 20 Under 20 list.

- **Maxwell Tran**, 19, Mississauga: Founder of Ink Movement, a national non-profit empowering youth through writing, photography and visual arts.
- **Mikaela Preston**, 18, Markham: Her research in biofuels aims to convert agricultural waste to hydrogen fuel.
- **Lauren Reid**, 18, Uxbridge: She’s working on a green technology project to generate clean electricity and reduce emissions by millions of pounds per day.
- **Calvin Rieder**, 18, Oakville: He’s created a system that extracts water from the atmosphere for human consumption without using external energy.
- **Neal Zuberi Attard**, 19, Thornhill: Founder of Student Activist Association, a group connecting immigrant students to volunteer opportunities that help build professional skills.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PM briefed in part: Wright

SENATE SCANDAL

Witness leads court through Duffy scenario from inside

Nigel Wright, former chief of staff to Prime Minister Stephen Harper, testifies during trial in Ottawa on Wednesday, in this artist's sketch. GREG BANNING/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Inside the Prime Minister's Office, they called it the "scenario for repayment" — a plan that would make the Mike Duffy expenses scandal quietly go away, without anyone suggesting the senator had done wrong.

Nigel Wright, the marquee witness at Duffy's fraud, breach of trust and bribery trial on Wednesday, said he didn't tell former boss Stephen Harper that the deal involved someone else paying Duffy's contested expenses.

But several of Harper's closest aides were privy to the drawn-out, often tense negotiations that went on behind the scenes in 2013. Harper was briefed in general, Wright said.

"I told (Harper) that Sen. Duffy was agreeing to repay; I gave him — in very broad terms, not in detail — the media lines," Wright testified.

Duffy has pleaded not guilty to 31 charges in connection with his Senate office, living and travel expenses. Wright's testimony goes to his secret $90,000 repayment of Duffy's expenses, which has been framed by the Crown as being orchestrated by Duffy.

Wright, who flew in from London where he now works, answered Crown attorney Jason Neubauer's questions with long, detailed answers. He recalled dates and specific phone calls and admitted to feeling anger toward Duffy at different junctures — and ultimately regret.

"If it became public, I thought it would be somewhat embarrassing," he said. "But there were a whole lot of connotations associated with it that I didn't really think through. If I had, I might not have done it."

Wright's highly anticipated testimony was accompanied by 426 pages of internal emails that were filed with the court.

From the moment the media began asking about the senator's residency issues in late 2012, Duffy dug in his heels.

The senator filed for expenses on the basis that he was travelling and living away from his "principal" residence in Prince Edward Island, even though he lived most of the time in Ottawa.

He told Wright the Senate rules and forms were not clear and repaying the money would put him at risk of being declared not qualified to sit in the upper chamber.

While Wright said Duffy might have arguably been legally entitled to the expenses, he felt that common sense dictated that he shouldn't claim for expenses for somewhere he "hung his hat at night."

Ultimately, Duffy and the PMO reached an agreement that would see his expenses repaid by the party, the Deloitte audit curtailed, the government defend Duffy's right to represent Prince Edward Island and Duffy keep his mouth shut about everything.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CYCLOSPORA

Outbreak remains mystery

Some sort of fresh produce has been making a number of Canadians sick this summer. But with grocery stores a veritable cornucopia of fruits and vegetables, how do public health experts figure out what is to blame?

It ain't easy. In fact, it takes a lot of dogged work to figure out the cause of something like Cyclospora, which has sickened more than 80 people in Ontario, British Columbia, Alberta and Quebec this summer.

And given the fact that it's actually been several weeks since the most recent person to be diagnosed became ill, chances are decent the source of this outbreak is going to remain a mystery.

Ontario has reported the lion's share of the cases in this outbreak is caused by a parasite called Cyclospora. The bug only infects people, triggering a gastrointestinal illness called cyclosporiasis. Its presence suggests some human feces came in contact with the produce carrying it. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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The Consequences of a car accident.

When to report and when not to report an accident.

Recently been involved in a collision? Here are some valuable guidelines to help you know what to do if you get in a collision.

Reporting an Accident: No injuries and damages are within Ontario's threshold. Each province sets a dollar value for estimated damages that will determine if you need to involve the police. In Ontario the threshold is $1,000. You are not required to report an accident to the police if the total damage is less than $1,000. This limit includes the damage to both vehicles. Your insurance policy however states that you are required to report all accidents to your insurance company, regardless of the amount of damage. Your insurer needs to be kept in the loop of any collision.

What about collisions that occur on private property, like parking lots?

For the most part, a collision while in a parking lot is no different than a collision that occurs while driving on the street, road or highway. The police will need to be notified if there are injuries, or if there are damages that exceed Ontario's $1000 threshold. Even on private property, you need to notify your insurer if you're involved in a collision.

There are scenarios when reporting an accident is required, no matter what the value of property damage.

Collisions that involve injury or death, a criminal act like impaired driving, an accident involving a government vehicle or one transporting dangerous goods, uninsured or unlicensed drivers or damage caused to highway property must always be reported.

And, like all other collisions, a call to your insurance provider is required in order to make sure you're covered in the event of a claim.

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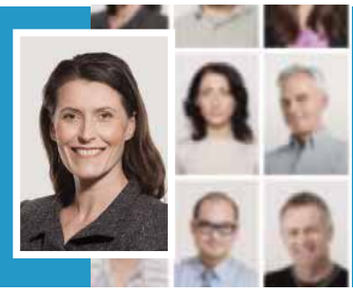

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NDP, Liberals respond to Duffy trial

ELECTION 2015

Leaders taking different approaches

The NDP wasted little time Wednesday in using the return of Mike Duffy as political leverage against the Conservatives, while Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau seemed to want to wash his hands of it.

With Nigel Wright, Stephen Harper's former chief of staff, on hand to testify at the disgraced senator's trial, Charlie Angus — the New Democrat point man on ethics — was promising to be there to discuss his testimony.

With NDP Leader Tom Mulcair campaigning in Quebec, Angus was also expected to step into the renewed media spotlight to promote an NDP plan to fight corruption in the embattled upper chamber.

Throughout the Senate scandal, Angus has been a gadfly to Harper. But his leader got things going during a morning appearance in Levis, Que. There is more at stake than just Wright and the $90,000 he gave Duffy to repay questioned expenses, Mulcair told NDP supporters.

"Nigel Wright may be on the witness stand, but it's Stephen Harper who is on trial," he said.

"Mr. Harper has time and again said one thing and its opposite during this whole Duffy-Wright affair. And when you say one thing and its opposite, it's quite obvious that both can't be true."

The Conservatives have been convicted of wrongdoing in the last three elections, Mulcair noted. "With a record like this, Canadians can't let Stephen Harper get away with it again."

Trudeau, however, suggested that instead of looking at all the mistakes made, he wants to move in a different direction — focusing in particular on the economy and the middle class.

"What we see right now is Ottawa is going to be entirely focused on what's coming out of that trial; people are going to be talking about all the things that went wrong with the Harper government," Trudeau said.

"I'm going to be talking about how we fix Canada and how we build a strong economy for the future of Canadians."

The Conservatives are out of steam and out of ideas, and Harper's plan is to stick with a program that hasn't worked, Trudeau said. "When a plan isn't working, the real risk is sticking with the status quo."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A Manitoba man turned over his iPhone after it caused panic on a crowded public beach. RCMP/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Man hands over gun-shaped phone case

A Manitoba man has turned his cellphone case over to police after it caused panic on a crowded public beach.

The black case, shaped like a handgun, was tucked in the waistband of the man's shorts on Sunday while he was at Grand Beach north of Winnipeg.

RCMP were called and responded with real rifles and Tasers.

They found the man sitting on the beach with family members, including children, and quickly determined he was only armed with an iPhone.

Sgt. Bert Paquet says the 34-year-old man was questioned and voluntarily gave officers the case for disposal.

He will not face charges.

"While the individual knew this item to be a fake gun, our officers did not," said Paquet.

"Some people do not realize the risks associated with openly carrying or displaying these replicas in a public space. Anyone who owns this type or similar devices should safely dispose of them immediately."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Ex-PQ minister named Peladeau's chief of staff

Former Parti Québécois cabinet minister Pierre Duchesne is the new chief of staff to party leader Pierre Karl Peladeau.

The ex-Radio Canada reporter was minister of higher education between 2012 and 2014 when he lost his seat in the general election and the Liberals swept to power. Duchesne, 50, has been a strategic adviser to the PQ since June 2014.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Judge allows sailors charged in sex assault to return to U.K. until trial

A Nova Scotia Supreme Court judge has ruled three British sailors charged with a sexual assault in Halifax can return to the U.K. while on bail. Justice Josh Arnold said Canada has good relations with the U.K., allowing for extradition if the men fail to appear for their court hearing. Arnold said each of the men will be released on bail of $10,000 and on condition that they attend court when required. THE CANADIAN PRESS

This image taken from a cellphone shows the immense size of the explosions. SCREENGRAB

Blasts hit Chinese port city

TIANJIN

At least 17 dead after explosion at warehouse

Huge explosions in a warehouse district sent up massive fireballs that turned the night sky into day, killing at least 17 people and injuring hundreds in the Chinese port city of Tianjin, officials and witnesses said Thursday.

China's state broadcaster, CCTV, said that at least 17 people were killed in the explosions late Wednesday and that 32 were in critical condition in hospital. Hundreds of others were taken to hospital.

The blasts, originating at a warehouse for hazardous material, knocked doors off buildings in the area and shattered windows up to several kilometres (miles) away.

"I thought it was an earthquake, so I rushed downstairs without my shoes on," Tianjin resident Zhang Siyu, whose home is several kilometres from the blast site, said in a telephone interview. "Only once I was outside did I realize it was an explosion. There was the huge fireball in the sky with thick clouds. Everybody could see it."

Zhang said she could see wounded people weeping. She said she did not see anyone who had been killed, but "I could feel death."

There was no indication of what caused the blasts, and no immediate sign of any large release of toxic chemicals into the air. The Beijing News newspaper reported on its website that there was some unidentified yellow foam flowing at the site.

Police in Tianjin said an initial blast took place at shipping containers in a warehouse for hazardous materials owned by Ruihai Logistics, a company that says it is properly approved to handle such materials. State media said senior management of the company had been detained by authorities, and that President Xi Jinping has demanded severe punishment for anyone found responsible for the explosions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RESEARCH

Octopuses display human-like behaviour

The octopus already is an oddball of the ocean. Now biologists have rediscovered a species of the sea creature that's even stranger and shares some of our social and mating habits.

Biologist Rich Ross at the California Academy of Sciences said a batch of octopuses from Central America just didn't fit the loner profile scientists had drawn for the rest of the species.

While most octopuses live alone, coming together briefly for dangerous mating, couples of this species mate beak-to-beak in a romantic way and stay together for a few days. But it's more than sex. These octopuses clean food waste from their dens. They twirl their arms the way an old-timey movie villain works his moustache.

The Larger Pacific Striped Octopus — not much bigger than a tennis ball — was found 40 years ago off Panama.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A male Larger Pacific Striped Octopus closes in on a shrimp.
COURTESY ROY L. CALDWELL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAY CONCOURSE IS CLOSING

August 16, 2015

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CAE INC.

Montreal hit hard by company layoffs

CAE Inc. is planning to cut 350 people out of its global workforce over the coming year, mostly in Montreal where the company has its head office and largest production facility.

The job cuts — representing about four per cent of its 8,000 employees — are part of efforts by the flight simulator and training company to improve its production processes and revamp its business focus.

"This will ensure that CAE maintains a strong leadership position in a highly dynamic market and will create an even wider gap between CAE and its competitors," said Marc Parent, its president and chief executive officer.

"We will do everything we can to mitigate the impact on those of our employees and their families who will unfortunately be affected by these changes."

After the quarter ended on June 30, CAE sold its mining technology business to Constellation Software, a Toronto-based company that operates in several industries.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BACKGROUND

Corporate reorganization
CAE expects an additional $19 million of restructuring costs, in addition to $5.7 million recorded in the company's fiscal first quarter, which began April 1.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

The 2,500 dismissals at Kraft Heinz involve employees in sales, marketing and finance. PAUL SAKUMA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

Kraft Heinz slashing 2,500 jobs post-merger

CUTBACKS

Executives expect to save $1.5 billion in annual costs

Kraft Heinz says it is cutting about 2,500 jobs in the U.S. and Canada as part of its plan to slash costs after the food companies combined.

Spokesman Michael Mullen says the affected workers were to be notified in person. About 700 of the cuts were coming in Northfield, Ill., where Kraft had been headquartered.

The company would not specify where other cuts were taking place but said that all the jobs were salaried. It said none of the job cuts involved factory workers.

The Kraft Heinz Co. said it had a total of around 46,600 employees before the cuts. That included about 1,900 in Northfield.

When the two companies announced the merger in March, Mullen said Heinz had Canadian operations in Toronto and St. Marys, Ont., as well as a small office in Leamington, Ont.

Kraft had around 2,000 Canadian employees, and according to a filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, three distribution centres and two manufacturing and processing facilities.

> **This new structure eliminates duplication to enable faster decision-making.**
> Kraft Heinz spokesman Michael Mullen

The job cuts are not surprising, given the reputation of the company's management on Wall Street.

CEO Bernardo Hees had already overseen cost-cutting at Heinz since the ketchup maker was taken over in 2013 in a prior partnership between 3G and Berkshire. That means the cuts announced Wednesday mostly affect people on the Kraft side of the business.

Executives say they expect to save $1.5 billion in annual costs by 2017.

In a statement, Mullen said Wednesday the job cuts are part of the company's process of integrating the two businesses and "designing our new organization."

"This new structure eliminates duplication to enable faster decision-making, increased accountability and accelerated growth," Mullen said. He said the savings will free up money to be invested back into the company's products.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/
WITH FILES FROM THE CANADIAN PRESS

ECONOMY

Air Canada soars to record quarter

Air Canada is on track to a highly profitable year after posting another record quarter as demand remains healthy despite a weakened Canadian economy.

The country's largest carrier benefited from a drop in fuel prices and higher non-fare charges.

The Montreal-based airline said Wednesday its net profit surged 33 per cent to $296 million in the second quarter. The net income amounted to $1 per diluted share, up from 75 cents per share or $223 million in the second quarter of 2014.

"Demand continues to be robust moving into traditionally our most important quarter given the travel demands and patterns of our North American customers," CEO Calin Rovinescu said Wednesday during a conference call.

He said increased capacity mainly to international routes is propelling profits and allowing the airline to manage events such as the declining Alberta market.

"If we see demand weakening we can adjust quickly. We're building an airline for the long-term," he told analysts. "It's a situation that won't change once fuel prices eventually rise."

Air Canada's revenue for the three months was $3.414 billion, up $109 million from the second quarter of 2014. This included a $61-million boost that the company attributed to the lower loonie.

The airline said it expects record results again in the third quarter, which ends Sept. 30.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

market minute

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TSX
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GOLD
$1,123.60 US (+$15.90)

NATURAL GAS: $2.931 US (+8.7¢)
DOW JONES: 17,402.51 (-0.33)

EUROZONE

Greece assesses bailout details

Details of Greece's latest bailout package were being pored over across Europe on Wednesday as Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras insisted the agreement with creditors would put "a definitive end" to the country's economic uncertainty.

Tsipras has called an emergency session of parliament to discuss and vote on the bill, which includes painful tax hikes and spending cuts, in time for a confirmed meeting Friday of the eurozone's 19 finance ministers in Brussels.

The so-called eurogroup has to sign off on the bailout deal — as do a few parliaments — so the funds on offer can be released in time for Greece to avoid defaulting on a big debt repayment to the European Central Bank on Aug. 20. The three-year bailout is worth about 85 billion euros ($93 billion).

To restore trust and rebuild confidence they say has been damaged over the past few months, Greece's creditors have insisted that lawmakers approve about 40 pieces of legislation by Thursday, and meet several other conditions by October.

Although Tsipras is facing fierce opposition from hardliners within his left-wing Syriza party over the bailout, the bill is expected to pass in the 300-member parliament as lawmakers in pro-European opposition parties have said they will back the agreement.

While all technical aspects of the deal have been finalized, it still needs the approval of the other 18 eurozone nations' finance ministers.

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metro VIEWS
Your essential daily news
Thursday, August 13, 2015

metro's election explainer

This vote could decide the future of the Senate. Here's where the leaders stand.

The trial of Senator Mike Duffy on charges of fraud, bribery and breach of trust has many wondering if it's time to clean house at the upper house. Senators are not elected, but appointed by the Governor General at the direction of the prime minister. They serve until age 75, most of their work is taken up by rubber-stamping the House of Commons' bills. Historically this plum post was used to reward friends and allies of the party in power. It doesn't take a psychic to divine that this system of patronage — though it's baked into the Constitution — will fall further out of favour in the future. It's enough to get leaders to peer into their crystal balls. Here's what they're seeing.

CONSERVATIVES: ABOLISH

The PM is a harsh critic of the Senate, saying 21st-century legislatures ought to be elected. But he says major reform, without consent of the provinces and messy constitutional negotiations, is "off the table." Harper hasn't appointed new senators for more than two years, in a bid to get provinces to initiate change. If that doesn't happen, and he's re-elected, he says he may have to resume appointments to get bills passed.

NEW DEMOCRATS: ABOLISH

Dippers are the most voracious critics of the Senate. They want to see the chamber consigned to history ASAP — even if means getting the provinces on board to pass a certain-to-be-contentious constitutional amendment. The NDP's "Roll up the red carpet" campaign literature notes with derision that all but a handful of the senators Harper appointed before his moratorium were major donors to the Conservative Party. The party also decries that the upper house sits for only 72 days a year at a cost of $116 million to taxpayers.

LIBERALS: REFORM

Liberal Leader Justin Trudeau says the NDP's and Conservatives' prophesying about a future with no Senate is "cynical," "dangerous" and "unrealistic." He argues reopening the constitutional debate — which has been divisive and dragged on for years in the past — could reinvigorate Quebec separatists. Instead, he wants an independent, nonpartisan, "merit-based" panel to appoint senators, a move critics say wouldn't adequately address the problem of patronage.

The election explainer is dedicated to keeping urban Canadians informed ahead of the Oct. 19 vote. Look for it in this space throughout the campaign. Let us know what needs explaining: readers@metronews.ca

Some health apps work, but do your homework

THE SCIENCE
Stephanie Orford

This September, the federal government is aiming to help you start your fall regimen properly with a new health incentives app called Carrot Rewards.

The $15-million tool, created by Canadian developer Social Change Rewards, provides cash-value incentives for Canadian users who make healthy lifestyle choices (cooking healthy recipes, joining fitness groups).

Carrot is just one of more than 100,000 smartphone health apps out there — and the market is growing. They can be a great way for people to monitor their health, and in some case they can help motivate users to identify issues and treat them.

Calorie-tracking apps like My Fitness Pal help users track their energy inputs and outputs, and indicate whether they're meeting a few key nutritional needs such as protein and vitamin intake.

Clue, a period-tracking app, allows users to record the timing of their period, their pain and other physiological observations, and helps women estimate when they're most likely to get pregnant.

But not all health apps are equal before science.

Last year a study published in breast-cancer journal The Breast found that the vast majority (about 85 per cent) of apps dedicated to breast health were not regulated or created using professional input.

And an earlier study found little evidence attesting to the efficacy of 295 cancer apps.

A 2013 study of women's health apps found that eight out of 10 weight-loss apps were effective at helping their users achieve weight loss, but found little evidence that other types of health apps were effective.

Smartphones are a powerful tool to collect and analyze personal health data inexpensively. They can potentially be used to flag health problems and provide potential preventive solutions.

And they can pre-empt health-care costs incurred by patients who would otherwise put off visiting a doctor until their health conditions were too severe to ignore.

But just because it's a slick smartphone app doesn't mean it's backed by good science. Before you download the app, do the research.

Smartphones are a powerful tool to collect and analyze personal health data inexpensively ... But just because it's a slick smartphone app doesn't mean it's backed by good science.

Stephanie Orford is a Vancouver-based writer. The Science appears every other Wednesday.

ROSEMARY WESTWOOD

metroview

To hear Trump tell it, any fierce woman must be menstruating

If there's one thing American's will never see under a Trump presidency, it's an apology.

That hasn't stop menstruating women from hounding our orange-topped celebrity politician du jour on Twitter, giving him a play-by-play of their periods, tagged #periodsarenotaninsult.

Earlier this week, Trump faced an onslaught of attacks from fellow Republicans after he suggested Fox News anchor Megyn Kelly asked him pointed questions during a debate because she was PMS'ing.

Trump, favouring truth talk as ever, told it like he sees it: Any woman acting fiercely is obviously on her period.

He's since denied the implications of his words. But regardless, it shows how much women's monthly bleeding still freaks everyone out.

During Thursday's debate, Kelly pressed Trump on his views of women (he's called Arianna Huffington "a dog," others "slobs" and "fat pigs").

Trump, in response, called Kelly a bimbo on Twitter. He told CNN she was a "lightweight" trying to act tough "reading her little script."

"You could see there was blood coming out of her eyes. Blood coming out of her ... wherever."

And that is what it takes to truly ostracize the Republican Party. Republicans slammed Trump "with a vigour not seen during previous controversies during his presidential bid," to quote CNN. He was even disinvited to a major Republican presidential event.

Not for calling Mexicans rapists. Not for his other demeaning comments about women (see above).

Apparently, mentioning a woman's bleeding is the lowest a Republican can go.

I would have considered period activism the province of young feminists learning that periods aren't weird or shameful. But menstrual blood still makes international headlines: Whether you're a marathon runner who got a Q & A with Cosmopolitan for bleeding while running, or you're an Instagram user getting shut down for posting photos of bloody sheets — periods are news.

There are a few ways to slice it. Maybe the spectre of menstrual blood remains extra gross or frightening. Or maybe, "period" is a misogynist code word for women's supposed lack of emotional control.

Sure, what Trump said was despicable. But most of what Trump says is despicable, mostly because he's direct about some despicable points of view other politicians prefer only to imply.

I don't have an answer to this one, but I am wondering: Why are periods the trump card?

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Former NFLer and head trauma advocate Ben Utecht has book deal

Behind the covers of Chip Kidd

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Working on Japanese books brings a new way of seeing

Famed graphic and book designer Chip Kidd has been designing covers for Japanese writer Haruki Murakami's books at Knopf for 20 years.

He's visited Japan and has been inspired in part by what he found in the jimbocho antiquarian book section of Tokyo.

"I could spend a couple of weeks there," he told Torstar News Service in an interview, "because you see everything from traditional Japanese bookmaking, then how they were influenced in terms of design by the West ... It's a whole other way of visually thinking. We are left to right and they are right to left."

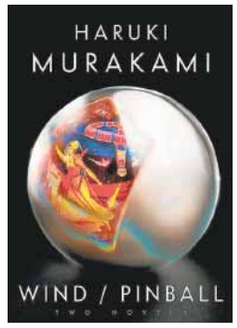
Here, some more of Murakami's book covers, with comments from Kidd on inspiration, challenges and successes.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"Traditional Japanese bookmaking ... It's a whole other way of visually thinking. We are left to right and they are right to left."

Graphic and book designer Chip Kidd

Wind / Pinball



I work with a photographer and image-maker named Geoff Spear and we worked on The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle and we worked on Kafka On The Shore. You know he's sort of a magician: I say (to him), "You know I want a giant pinball and we're going to see a reflection of this particular pinball machine in it" and so he did it and it was really great. And we go back and forth and hone it. And then I realized after it was accepted that the image of the pinball machine, of the rocket ship is on the left, and the clear, just the sheen of the chrome is on the right. But the title is Wind/Pinball. But when you look at this it's Pinball/Wind. Then I thought, no, this is perfect, because if you read the image right to left (as you would in Japanese) it is Wind/Pinball.

After Dark

(My trips to Japan) influenced me a lot especially in terms of just getting to understand the visual culture. There was a Murakami novel called After Dark and I was in Tokyo when I was working on that. I took a photo of a pachinko parlour ... and it was late, it was like midnight or one in the morning. So I took a picture of it and it had these funky glass doors that slid closed just as I was taking the picture. And I got angry. But it turned out that's what we ended up using because it looked so interesting, it looked more interesting than if the doors had been open.

PACHINKO PARLOUR TRICK

It had these funky glass doors that slid closed just as I was taking the picture. And I got angry.

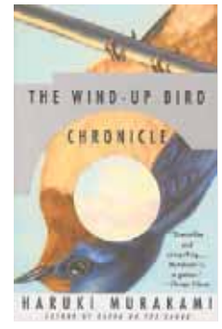
Colorless

The trickiest by far was Colorless. Our head of production (at Knopf) is a guy named Andy Hughes who's ... just really, really brilliant at figuring out how to get these designs mass produced. But I think with Colorless ... I had a special excitement because the book debuted at No. 1. That was a huge symbolic milestone for him, plus I'm very proud of the design. It's strange, it's abstract, it initially doesn't really appear to mean anything although I was hoping that potential readers would be enamoured of it as an object first, then as you read it you figure out why the design looks the way it does. Then it makes more sense and takes on more meaning.

OBJECT FIRST

As you read it you figure out why the design looks the way it does. Then it makes more sense and takes on more meaning.

The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle



It's hard to pick (a favourite) I think that the way we were able to do Wind-Up Bird was really for me, because I was able to involve again my friend Geoff Spear and the cartoonist Chris Ware and blend their work together on this giant wind-up bird. And the way that works with the whole interior was for me a sort of revelation about how to design a novel starting with a deck and then going into the inside and how they work with each other.

The Strange Library

The brief, as it were, on The Strange Library was to make an extremely visual book out of what is essentially a short story and could be conceived as a short story for a younger audience. You know I also have to say that I'm so thrilled that the Canadian publisher Random House Canada has used my designs because they didn't have to. They could have created their own. But they went along with just about everything that I've worked on ... and I really appreciate it.

1Q84

The 1Q84 jacket almost didn't happen because they couldn't find a bindery that would be able to (handle it. The hard cover had an image with a semi-transparent jacket overleaf). It would have had to be done by hand as opposed to by a machine and that would have killed it for obvious reasons — we're talking over 100,000 books. So Andy Hughes (our head of production) found a bindery who was willing to take it on as long as we would give him a quarter inch play in either direction. Sometimes the title lined up perfectly and then sometimes it would shift to the left or to the right. But even if it shifted then you'd get this kind of nice white drop shadow and it wouldn't impede the readability of it.

TRANSPARENT TITLE OVERLAY

Even if it shifted then you'd get this kind of nice white drop shadow and it wouldn't impede the readability of it.

Gone Girl writer back in Dark Places

FEMALE ANTI-HEROES

Another Gillian Flynn novel goes Hollywood

Ned Ehrbar
Metro | Life

When Gillian Flynn sat down to write her novel Dark Places she really, truly tried to centre the story on a less troubled female protagonist, but that just wasn't in the cards. "In the first draft, I was like, 'I'm not going to write another dark female narrator.' And the Libby I created was just ridiculous," Flynn explains. "She was more, 'We're going to solve this murder! Let's go!' Really optimistic. Like a jazzercise instructor. Ludicrous. So I just erased her and started over again, with the opening line of the book: 'I have a meanness inside of me.' Then I really had her."

It may sound crazy, given Flynn's success with novels that portray darkly complicated, complex female characters, but that approach was something of a tough sell early on.

"When I first started writing my first book, Sharp Objects, I was writing it with a little sense of a vacuum of interesting female characters — in particular female anti-heroes," Flynn says. "We got turned down by quite a few places that said, 'Women aren't going to read about a woman they don't like. And men will definitely not want to read about a woman who's bad.' And to me, I was like, 'What era is this?'"

Those publishers are likely kicking themselves now, since Flynn followed Sharp Objects up with the novels Dark Places and Gone Girl. That bestseller became a hit film from David Fincher, starring Ben Affleck and Rosamund Pike — with a script adaptation by Flynn herself — and now Dark Places has hit theatres, starring Charlize Theron as Libby, the troubled woman revisiting the horrific murder of her family when she was a child.

Gillian Flynn, who picked up a best adapted screenplay award for Gone Girl at the Critics' Choice Movie Awards, has another novel, Dark Places, adapted for film. GETTY IMAGES

> **'Men will definitely not want to read about a woman who's bad.' And I was like, 'What era is this?'**
> Author Gillian Flynn

Given the success of Gone Girl and with Flynn now seeing Dark Places adapted for the screen, it would be understandable if she started planning out her future books with an eye toward how they might do as movies. But she swears she hasn't.

"I don't think so, but I have not started the next book — don't tell my publisher, that's off the record," she jokes. But kidding aside, it's not an approach she'd advise for herself or other writers, as the results can be not so impressive. "I think writing a book with film in mind is a way to write a really bad book. You can usually tell those books are sort of packaged to become films," she says.

Which is not to say her recent forays into Hollywood won't have some sway on her creative process going forward, of course. "I think that will be one of those things, one of those voices on my shoulder — shoulders? Now I've confessed too much! — that I'll be kind of battling a little bit with the next book, is trying to fight that urge to make it seem commercial or filmable or whatever it is," Flynn admits. "Because, you know, you don't necessarily read Dark Places and think, 'What an easy thing to film!'"

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With Wicked and Weird: The Amazing Tales of Buck 65, Rich Terfry continues in his confessional tradition. HANDOUT

Stranger than fiction

BUCK 65

Hip-hop artist and CBC host releases memoir

BOOKWORM

Sue Carter

Driving into Mount Uniacke, a rural community 40 kilometres outside of Halifax, you will encounter a wooden sign welcoming visitors to the "The Home of Buck 65."

Rich Terfry (a.k.a. Buck 65), Mount Uniacke's most famous son, earned the keys to the town: first, as a major-league hopeful with a lightning-fast arm, then as a Juno Award–winning hip-hop artist, a CBC Radio host, and now author. And yet the release of Terfry's memoir, Wicked and Weird: The Amazing Tales of Buck 65, published by Doubleday Canada, has the Nova Scotia native a little nervous about the response back home.

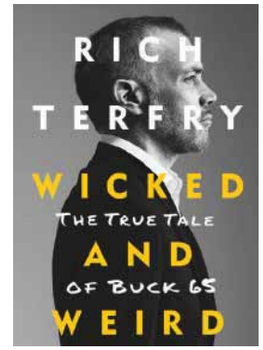
"I wanted to capture the spirit of the place and do it justice, but the tricky part is that a lot of the stuff that happened there was never talked about," he says. "And now I'm talking about it, for everyone to see."

Revealing "a hometown fuelled by secrets" is nerve-racking for sure, but the stories come with a warning. In the book's foreword, Terfry declares that his "imagination remains more reliable than my memory," a sly warning to readers not to believe everything on the page.

Terfry carries out on the weird promise alluded to in the title. In the first half of the book's coming-of-age story, there are Paul Bunyon-esque circus freaks and baseballs thrown so hard they fly into outer space, holes dug halfway to China that swallow up a man.

For those familiar with Buck 65's autobiographically inspired lyrics or his yarn-spinning broadcasts on the CBC Radio program Drive, it's no surprise that the memoir is fuelled by his "taste for the fantastical."

"I got this idea in my head a long time ago that I never wanted to be perceived as boring. No one is ever going to say that guy's a snooze," he says. "I grew up in a family where storytelling was a big part of the culture. Stories became tall tales, and the fish caught become this big," he says, stretching his arms.



But underlying the personal mythology are the darker thoughts of an introverted young man growing up in a rough town, coping with the death of his beloved but volatile mother, a heavy-drinking father, adolescent infatuations and a promising baseball career cut short by physical injury.

The second half of the book reads as something of a confession, recalling Terfry's breakout as a successful music artist, a retreat to Paris and, most importantly, his relationship with ex-wife Claire Barest — who sang on several tracks on his album Secret House Against the World, and whose breakup with inspired his 2014 album Neverlove.

In the past when Terfry has publicly opened up — first through his music (his song Ice, about his mother's death, led to a record deal with Warner Music), and later through social media (earlier this year he admitted on Facebook to creating "a false image of myself"), he's discovered fans willing to listen to his words and empathize.

"It's been scary, and it still is," Terfry says. "But the response has been so good. Opening up to people I've been given so much positive reinforcement, and as time goes on, I felt safer and safer doing it. So it's something that I continue to do."

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.

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Free 400-foot accessible zipline at Ontario's Celebration Zone.

Toronto-based Julian Taylor Band hit the Main Stage Friday, Aug. 14.

Electro-pop group Brave Shores will perform on the Main Stage Thursday, Aug. 13.

FOUR MORE DAYS OF FREE FUN

Ontario's Celebration Zone at Harbourfront hits the home stretch

With the closing ceremony of the Parapan Am Games just around the corner, Ontario's Celebration Zone at Harbourfront is still going strong, showcasing the very best of Ontario with free music, dance, entertainment, culinary experiences, and thrills.

Make sure you experience all that Ontario's Celebration Zone has to offer, including the incredible 400-foot accessible zipline, a challenging 40-foot rock climbing wall and the aptly named Adrenaline Jump.

Ontario's Celebration Zone is open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. The curtain comes down on the evening of August 16, so be sure to visit the Zone before the final curtain call.

TEST YOUR ADVENTUROUS SIDE: The zone features a 400-foot accessible zipline, a 40-foot rock climbing wall and the exciting Adrenaline Jump.

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BRING THE KIDS: Children will be entertained by stilt walkers, carnival roamers and learning-to-fish demonstrations.

THURSDAY, AUG. 13
All day — Try wheelchair racing. Presented by the Canadian Paralympic Committee.
10:30 a.m. — Pumped Up Dance — get moving with a danced-based workout.
3 p.m. — Nick Sherman plays the Main Stage.
8 p.m. — Brave Shores, an electro-pop group from Toronto, performs on the Main Stage.
9:15 p.m. — The Beaches on the Main Stage

Canadian rock band Young Empires play the Main Stage Sunday, Aug. 16. CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

FRIDAY, AUG. 14
10:30 a.m. — Pumped Up Boot Camp: Get fit with Paul's Integrity Fitness.
1:30 p.m. — The Ollivanders award-winning Six Nations rock band live on the Main Stage.
7 p.m. — Fanshawe College 2015 Unbound Fashion Show showcasing Canada's most innovative young fashion designers.
8 p.m. — The Walkervilles live on the Main Stage.
9:15 p.m. — Toronto-based Julian Taylor Band hit the Main Stage.

SATURDAY, AUG. 15
All day — A taste of Caribbean Carnival, with visits by the 2015 Scotiabank Caribbean Carnival King and Queen.
12 p.m. — St. Jamestown Youth Centre Steel Orchestra.
3 p.m. — Ballet Creole Jou'Vert performance representing Pan Am countries through dance and music
8:30 p.m. — Hip-hop artist Emmanuel Jal performs on the Main Stage.

SUNDAY, AUG. 16
11 a.m. — Bahamian Junkanoo Legends. Enjoy the sights and sounds of the Bahamas.
1 p.m. — Freedom Dance Entertainment and Domanique Grant featuring original music and dance.
7 p.m. — Ballet Folklorico Puro Mexico, spreading and promoting Mexican culture through folkloric dance.
8 p.m. — Indie-rock band Zeus on the Main Stage.
9:15 p.m. — Canadian rock band Young Empires performs on the Main Stage.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ONTARIO'S CELEBRATION ZONE, VISIT ONTARIOTRAVEL.NET, AND FOLLOW ON TWITTER @EPICISON.

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Not just a game

BLACK CHALK

New novel explores dark side of friendly competition

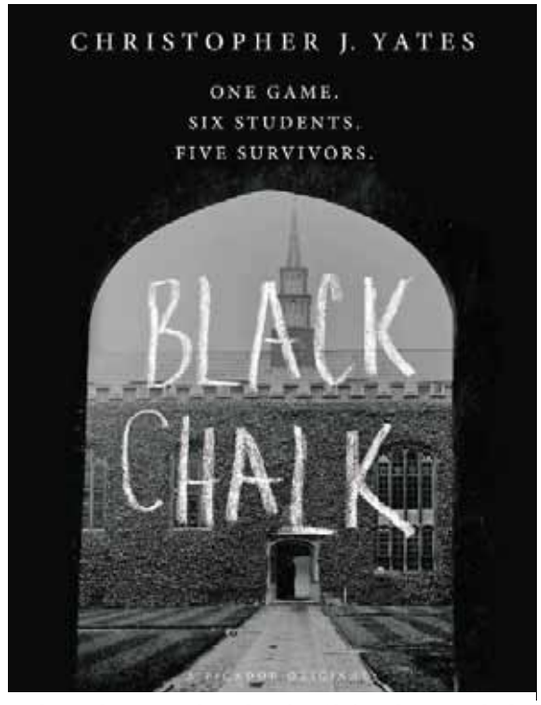
Emily Laurence
Metro in New York

As a puzzle and crossword maker, it's no surprise Christopher Yates enjoys a good game. But his novel Black Chalk takes the idea of friendly competition to a whole new level implying that life itself is a game. "Why else do you think we call ourselves the human race?" the book asks.

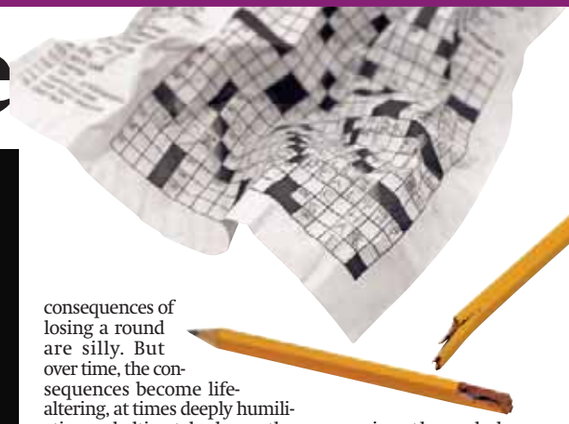
"There's a quote I like from Gore Vidal: 'Every time a friend succeeds, I die a little,'" Yates says. "Some people say it's a great quote and really expresses something true. Other people are absolutely mystified. They can't understand the idea of being jealous by someone else's success."

Truth and consequences

The book is about six friends studying at Oxford University who make up a game. At first the consequences of losing a round are silly. But over time, the consequences become life-altering, at times deeply humiliating and ultimately change the players forever.



Author and crossword puzzle writer Christopher Yates looks at how games can reveal who we are in Black Chalk. HANDOUT



"I came up with the idea for the very game with a friend when I was at Oxford," Yates says. "We never played the game, which is probably fortunate. But to a large degree, writing this book was me imagining what would happen if we did play the game."

Plot puzzle

The structure of the book jumps between present day and the college days in 1991. The narrator is a recluse living in the East Village in New York, and at times, the reader doesn't actually know which one of the characters is narrating the book.

Yates uses various other tricks to keep the reader guessing the whole way through.

"I did a lot of those things as a way to entertain myself while I wrote it," he says. "I think I almost turned the book into some sort of puzzle, even a puzzle for myself, and I had to work out how to make the different pieces work together to make a satisfying structure for the reader."

Competition cause and effect

Yates says the way a person plays a game says a lot about their psyche. "Almost any time competition gets involved, it can reveal something about the people who are playing it," he says. "Almost any game can descend into casting a bad light on human behaviour."

INSIDER INFO

Expert crossword puzzle maker and author Christopher Yates shares his tips for solving the hardest crosswords

1. Three-letter words
"When you make up a crossword puzzle, you are often forced to use obscure three-letter words," Yates says. He suggests Googling "crosswords three letter words" to build a base of the most common ones.

2. Look to the suffix
Yates says if a clue ends in –ing, there's a good likelihood the answer ends in –ing as well. Same goes for –ed. "Just pencil in (the suffix) and see if it helps. It just may point you in the right direction and help you solve some other clues connected to the answer word.

3. Take a break.
Sometimes the best thing you can do is put down the crossword and do something else. "Your brain is still working," he says. Chances are, when you sit back down, an idea will pop in your head.

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GABRIEL GARCIA MARQUEZ ASHES MAKE THEIR WAY HOME An artist in Bogota sits in front of his paintings for sale, including one of Colombia's late novelist Gabriel Garcia Marquez, right, along with paintings of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, centre, and independence hero Simon Bolivar. The cremated remains of Nobel Prize-winning novelist Gabriel Garcia Marquez are making their return journey home to Colombia and starting in December will be exhibited in the Caribbean city of Cartagena where he began his writing career. FERNANDO VERGARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hay novel shaped by referendum

ELIZABETH HAY

Divided loyalties are at the heart of His Whole Life

Strong personal regrets and a fascination with how Canadians have been shaped by the 1995 Quebec referendum played a role in the genesis of Elizabeth Hay's new novel, His Whole Life.

The story centres on Jim, a young boy who desperately wants a dog.

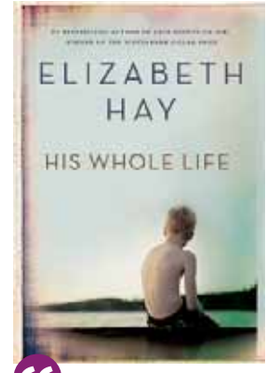
Hay says she now wishes she got her own son a dog when he really wanted one.

"So I thought in this book I could give the boy a dog and I would have him be extremely attached to Canada," says Hay during a telephone interview from her Ottawa home.

"But it wouldn't be simple because the boy would have a Canadian mother and an American father and there'd be this kind of cross-border division of loyalties in his life."

Hay, who lived in New York with her American husband for six years, dedicates His Whole Life (McClelland & Stewart) to their son and daughter, "reluctant Canadians."

"My son was four and my daughter was seven when I dragged everybody to Canada (in 1992), what for me was home, and I don't think my kids have ever forgiven me for robbing them of New York," she says.



"What if the worst thing is also your best thing?
Elizabeth Hay

Hay also wanted to write a book in which the mother and son are dominant and the father is a fifth wheel who, in the end, has the last laugh.

As His Whole Life opens, Canadian expat Nan and her American husband George are travelling from New York with their son to a lake in eastern Ontario, as they do every summer.

Ten-year-old Jim asks his parents what is the worst thing they've ever done, a question that resonates throughout the novel.

Nan eventually figures out what her son needs to hear. The reader learns about the boy's "worst thing," though Jim never reveals it to his mother.

"And then the question itself takes a turn," Hay says. "What if the worst thing is also your best thing?

"This is a personal question for Nan: If something that she's done, which at one time she thought was actually a good thing to do, in hindsight is really one of the worst things she's done.

"And it plays on the political level, too, in terms of (former prime minister Pierre) Trudeau in his dealings with Quebec. In bringing the Constitution home without getting Quebec's approval, did he do more harm than good?"

In using the referendum — in which Quebecers voted on whether to form a sovereign state — as a backdrop, Hay portrays a family that's staying together and falling apart at the same time that Canada was in turmoil.

She's long been fascinated by the drama of the 1995 referendum and the whole nature of divided loyalty.

"How often in a country's history do you have a situation where you get to really understand how much you care about a country?" she says.

Hay finds herself caught up in the current political drama as federal party leaders campaign for the Oct. 19 vote.

"I'm worried about the result of this one, but it's fascinating to follow." THE CANADIAN PRESS

A life online: Felicia tells all

INTERNET

Day discusses #gamergate and why it pays to be yourself

Emily Laurence
Metro in New York City

Felicia Day is the Internet personified. She takes what, for most people, would be a simple cursory search online for an oddball obsession to the next level: IRL. And Day is open to trying pretty much anything, which she proves time and time again on her YouTube series The Flog. Just this season, she's attempted pole dancing, fencing and neon sign making.

With 1.4 million YouTube subscribers, the gamer, actress (Buffy The Vampire Slayer; Supernatural), writer and producer, Day has a fanbase that expands across multiple mediums. But her new memoir, You're Never Weird On The Internet (Almost) is the first time she's shared her story, thus far, in its entirety.

"I think it's a normal human impulse to want to connect with people and growing up I was homeschooled, which didn't allow me to connect with a lot of people in the real world," Day tells us of why she looked online to make friends. "As far as I remember, technology was

a vehicle for meeting people and sharing my enthusiasm about something."

A lot of Day's personal interests, like gaming, comics and math, aren't thought of as "girly," but she says the support she's found online has made up for the sexism she's faced in real life.

"There's a lot of pressure to conform to the cliché of what we look like, and that's why the Internet is an amazing place because it's really about your personality," she says. "I think it's a beautiful thing to counter the expectations of people either based on your gender or race, standing up and saying, 'you're ill-informed.'"

Of course the Internet hasn't always been warm and fuzzy for her.

Last year, Day's personal information, including her address, was released online in an attack known as #gamergate, subjecting her to being the target of stalkers.

"It was a very hurtful incident in my life and not just personally, but because I love gaming and I love spreading the love of gaming," she says. "That's not my world of gaming. I know wonderful people through it and I would hate for someone to be dissuaded from being a part of the gaming world because of that incident. It's very sad."

There is a whole chapter in the book devoted to #gamergate, where Day describes what it was like for her, something she hopes others will learn from. In fact, she hopes her memoir as a whole will spread positivity and inspire readers to be their own authentic weird selves.

"Our uniqueness is what we have to offer to the world," she says. "Your weirdness is your superpower and you shouldn't give up your superpower just because other people tell you to. That's the worst plot for a superhero movie."

IRL

Appearance
Felicia Day will be in Toronto today at 7 p.m. at the Indigo Eaton Centre. It's the only Canadian stop on her book tour.

Felicia Day says a #gamergate attack against her privacy was "a very hurtful incident." HANDOUT

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RESEARCH

Sexting couples have better IRL sex, study says

Sexty time linked to sexy time

IT'S NOT ALL BAD

Past studies have focused on the negative side of sexting.

Couples who send each other sexually suggestive or explicit images by phone, commonly known as "sexting," have better sex, according to a study presented to a psychology convention in Toronto.

The practice is often portrayed as risky, yet American researchers found it is widespread and could actually help couples improve communication and increase intimacy.

"These findings show a robust relationship between sexting and sexual and relationship satisfaction," said Emily Stasko of Philadelphia's Drexel University.

She presented the results of an online survey of 870 Americans aged 18 to 82 at the American Psychological Association's 123rd Annual Convention in Toronto on Saturday.

More than eight out of 10 respondents said they have sexted. Three-quarters of them sent images to a boyfriend, girlfriend, husband or wife, and associated sexting with better relationship satisfaction. That increased gratification, however, did not carry over to singles surveyed, nor to respondents who said they were in a "very committed" relationship. Despite its potential to enhance communication between partners, past studies — and recent headlines — have focused almost exclusively on negative outcomes from sexting.

Some of the best known examples include news last year about phone hacks that led to the leak of nude photos of celebrities including actress Jennifer Lawrence, pop icon Rihanna and top model Kate Upton.

In another notorious sexting case, U.S. lawmaker Anthony Weiner quit the House of Representatives after confessing that he used social media to send sexually explicit pictures of himself to a number of women.

But such highly publicized negative outcomes said Stasko, fail to take into account the upside of sexting, which, when used by a loving couple, can increase the "potential positive effects of open sexual communication with a partner." AFP

IN BRIEF

Science takes on hotness: If in doubt, just be yourself

In a quest to determine why certain people exude more sex appeal than others, a new study from Queen's University in Kingston, Ont. suggests it's a question of overall appearance.

They asked participants to rate the attractiveness of an individual's way of moving and figure. Next, they blended one person's movement with another's body shape. The hybrid walkers were ranked as less attractive than the researchers had predicted.

The research team says it's time to reexamine studies that have broken down attractiveness on a feature-by-feature basis.

"They can also be used to formulate advice to people who are working on improving their own appearance," says researcher Dr. Troje. "What works for one person may not work for another one. If in doubt, just be yourself."

AFP

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GOSSIP BRIEFS

Stewart not talking about sexuality

During her chat with Nylon magazine, former Twilight star Kirsten Stewart was asked to define her sexuality, but she'd rather not if that's cool.

"I don't feel like it would be true for me to be like, 'I'm coming out!'" she says. "I think in three or four years, there are going to be a whole lot more people who don't think it's necessary to figure out if you're gay or straight. It's like, just do your thing."

NED EHRBAR/METRO HOLLYWOOD

Smith calls out homophobia

Sam Smith took to Instagram this week to put one particular follower that had been harassing him on blast.

"This genuinely doesn't offend me, (because) I'm way too (thick-)skinned when it comes to this kind of s—," Smith writes. "But I just wanted to share this with everyone, so you can see how homophobia is still so present in our society." The account in question, named @gaysamsmith, has five followers and zero posts, with an account description that bashes Smith with homophobic language.

NED EHRBAR/METRO HOLLYWOOD

RELATIONSHIP

Tabloids faze Faris

Anna Faris and Chris Pratt are uncomfortably adjusting to life in the tabloid glare now that Pratt is one of the biggest movie stars in the world. For instance, Faris wasn't too thrilled by a Star magazine report this summer claiming she was worried about Pratt cheating on her with Jennifer Lawrence while they shoot a new movie together.

"For us it was like, 'What the heck?' This has been blindsiding to us. We have an incredible relationship. It's been weirdly stinging," she tells Fox411.

"(That) stung a little bit harder than I thought it would. I have always kind of believed that part of the rumours of celebrity couples were sort of true — because they had never been a part of my life. I thought 'Maybe there is a kernel of truth to that.'"

NED EHRBAR/METRO HOLLYWOOD

HOMES

Swift not buying a castle near her prince

This week in Taylor Swift rumour debunking: The Shake it Off singer is not — I repeat, not — buying a castle in the Scottish countryside to be closer to boyfriend Calvin Harris' family.

The castle in question, the Tower of Lethendy, would cost about $7.2 million but put her just an hour's drive from Harris' family homestead.

But alas: "I'm not actually buying a castle," she tweeted. So there you have it.

NED EHRBAR/METRO HOLLYWOOD

Olsen twins are having a bad week

LAWSUIT

What's normal for a fashion internship anyway?

IN HOLLYWOOD
Ned Ehrbar

Mary Kate and Ashley Olsen are having a less-than-awesome week as the former child stars are being sued by a former intern, Shahista Lalani, who claims she was overworked with no pay.

Lalani is leading a class-action lawsuit against the twins' company, Dualstar Entertainment, where she worked as an intern in 2012.

"I was doing the work of three interns," Lalani alleges, of her time under the technical designer for the Olsens' The Row label, according to the New York Post. "I was talking to her all day, all night. Emails at nighttime for the next day — like, 10 p.m. at night. It was, like, 100 degrees outside. I'd just be sweating to death. I probably carried, like, 50 pounds worth of trench coats."

Sounds like someone forgot to watch The Devil Wears Prada before starting her internship.

"You're like an employee, except you're not getting paid," she added. "They're kind of mean to you. Other interns have cried. I'd see a lot of kids crying doing coffee runs, photocopying stuff."

That ... sounds about normal for an internship in the fashion world. Lalani does say that the Olsen twins themselves are totes cool, though: "They're really nice people. They were never mean to anyone."

Oh, and in a great example of corporate shade, a rep for the company simply says, "Dualstar is not aware of this (lawsuit)." Burn.

The twins' company, Dualstar Entertainment, is staying mum over allegations. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

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Technology invades classroom

Jennifer Taplin
For Metro

Binders — check. Pencils — check. Mobile tablet — check.

This September, all high school students in the West Vancouver School District are strongly encouraged to bring their devices to school. School-owned devices will be available for students who don't have their own.

"Students bringing their own devices has really been an evolution over the last few years — we started in younger grades and it is now moving through out high schools," said Chris Kennedy, superintendent at West Vancouver Schools.

And just because students have devices in school, doesn't mean they'll always be using them, Kennedy said. It will depend on the classroom activity.

There are arguments to the contrary — distraction and theft — but these are issues young adults are going to have to learn some time, it might as well be in high school.

"Students with digital devices is about being citizens in our modern world," Kennedy said. "Some want to look to see if devices improve scores on standardized tests — we don't. We know that the world our students participate in is digitally rich, so we want to support them in this world at school."

ENGAGEMENT

Karsenti's research showed devices made classroom management more difficult for teachers, but there was an upside: Many teachers surveyed said it makes them better teachers because they are constantly walking up and down the desks and keeping the kids engaged instead of lecturing from a seat in the front of the class.

For years Thierry Karsenti, a University of Montreal professor, has researched the use of technology in classrooms.

"There's a big myth in education that teachers often think students are so good with technology they don't need to teach them how technology works," he said. "The research that is being conducted shows that is completely false."

Students are really good at gaming and socializing on facebook, but they're not very good a using technology to search for information, use a word processor or a dictionary.

"All these skills in 2015 have to be mastered in school," he said.

The idea of BYOD (bring your own device) is very popular, but it has a downside: students are bringing a variety of devices to school making it difficult for teachers to keep the class together, Karsenti said. It's easier for teachers if the school supplies the kids with all the same type devices.

Studies show devices create more learning in the classroom, but it takes time Karsenti said. The first year is usually rough, as kids are highly distracted.

Karsenti's latest research surveying thousands of Canadian students found after a while, students figure out how to let go of distractions.

"After three years what we found there is a significant impact on learning," he said.

Plus, if students learn to look past distractions in high school, they'll be better off and more focused in university.

"We have to learn to live with the device in high school or sometimes before that because if we don't do that, who is going to teach them, who is going to show them how to do that?"

High school students in B.C. are being encouraged to bring their own devices to class this year. SHUTTERSTOCK

The BYOD movement will be huge

Jim Slotta, a researcher at the University of Toronto, said getting students to bring their own devices solves several problems for schools. "If you're not going to be doing (BYOD), you're going to be in the minority of school boards and schools."

It solves the one-to-one computing problem that has plagued educators for decades: whether and when to stock the computer room with laptops.

"The problem is nobody knows what to do with the devices," he said. "They can have all the devices they want but no teachers out there who know what to do with a classroom full of kids with devices. That's going to be a stumbling block."

And into the future, Slotta expects there will be more peer-to-peer technology where tablets will communicate better and network within the classroom. Smartboards will be in more classrooms as will larger multi-touch tablets. "Imagine a 35-inch tablet with three or four people around it touching it," Slotta said.

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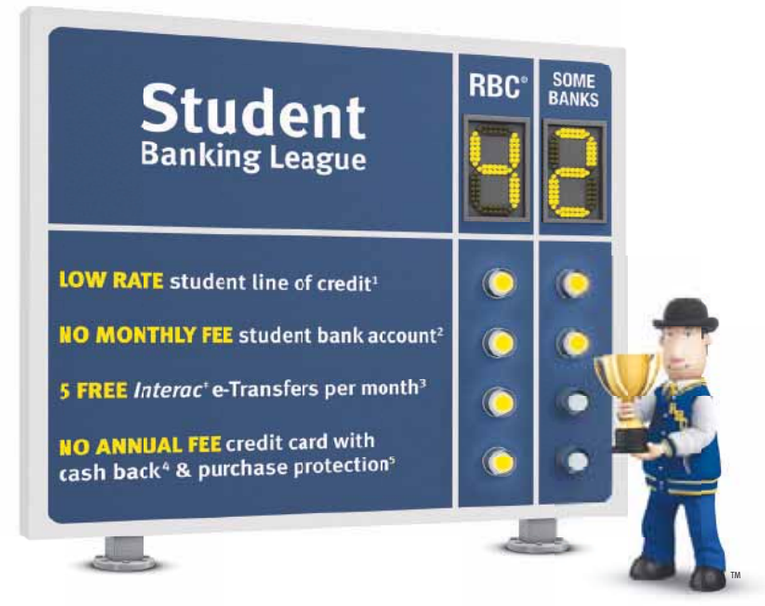
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metro HOME

Your essential daily news

A lighter look: The Bentley armchair with teak frame exemplifies 'New Scandi' trend in decor

AFFORDABILITY

First-time buyers shut out of single-family housing market

CONDO TRENDS

Duncan McAllister

The hunt for that first home

The condo is your first house. As everyone knows, Toronto's single-family housing prices are going through the roof, which is making it difficult for young, first-time buyers to get a foothold in the real estate market.

Shaun Singh and his wife are searching for a home, but have found the Toronto market to be very competitive.

"Our rent is going up every year and so if the rent is becoming too much to afford compared to just owning a place, that's what spurred us into looking at buying," he says.

The couple has enlisted the help of online brokerage TheRedPin.com to help them find the right place.

"We're still looking." says Singh. "The affordability is either east or west and in central Toronto, there seems to be more competition for the good places."

Firefighter Matthew Lum and his fiancée Grace just purchased a condominium at Fontana by H & W Developments near Warden and Highway 7. They waited for their careers to be in order before starting their search.

"We both work in Markham," says Lum. "We visited various townhouses and condos available in Markham and Fontana landed right in our lap."

They, too, found affordability to be an issue.

"Markham itself, overall the prices have gone up like crazy. So that cut off our route with housing — semi-detached or detached — and that's what got us into the condo market," says Lum.

> **New construction condominiums are the only affordable entry point into the marketplace.**
> Barbara Lawlor of Baker Real Estate

Barbara Lawlor, president and CEO of Baker Real Estate, says that first-time buyers are a strong segment of the marketplace. "I think the reason for that is because affordability is such a battle cry at the moment."

The gap in pricing between a single-family home and a condominium has skyrocketed over the past few years, a case of supply and demand that has resulted from a dwindling inventory of stand-alone houses.

"New construction condominiums are the only affordable entry point into the marketplace," says Lawlor.

First-time buyers Matthew Lum and fiancée Grace purchased a suite at Fontana Condominiums and Townhomes, currently under construction in Markham. H & W DEVELOPMENTS; ABOVE: ISTOCK

In a new trend, today's younger buyers are increasingly turning to parents and family for alternate sources of financing — whatever it takes to get that all-important foot in the door. "The bank of mom and dad is alive and well," she says.

Lawlor maintains that new condos are a good, solid start for new home buyers. "It's a great place for first-time buyers to put their money to invest in and put a roof over their head at the same time."

FEDERAL FUNDING

Cash for infrastructure should be election issue

Bryan Tuckey

We will be going to the polls on Oct. 19 to vote for a new federal government and I believe we should use the next few months to make infrastructure funding for cities — especially the GTA — an election issue.

We need more federal funding for critical infrastructure like the pipes that bring clean water to our taps, the roads and transit we take to work and the bridges that connect our communities. It might not appear to be the most pressing of issues, but it is and here's why: Infrastructure is vital to our economic prosperity, we all benefit from it and we all have the responsibility to help pay for it.

The GTA is one of the fastest-growing regions in North America and our existing infrastructure isn't meeting the needs of our existing, let alone our growing, population. If we don't have pipes in the ground, roads for moving goods and people, and transit to provide an alternative transportation method that eases congestion we are going to experience some drastic growing pains.

The federal government gives more money to the provinces for infrastructure and through them it was given to municipalities. Municipalities alone cannot bear the cost of putting in the infrastructure needed to support our growing population and to help attract more businesses to the region.

To fill the gap, in the last decade we have seen municipalities significantly increase development charges and other government fees. Development charges are a tax on new development, paid for by new homebuyers, and in the last decade they have more than doubled in most municipalities across the GTA.

We agree with the principle that growth should pay for growth but new homebuyers and employers are already paying their fair share.

We need to elect a government that is committed to funding much-needed infrastructure in the GTA. Research the party platforms and ask the candidates canvassing your neighbourhood where they stand on funding infrastructure to support the growth of our region.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @BILDGTA, FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA, AND BILDBLOGS.CA.

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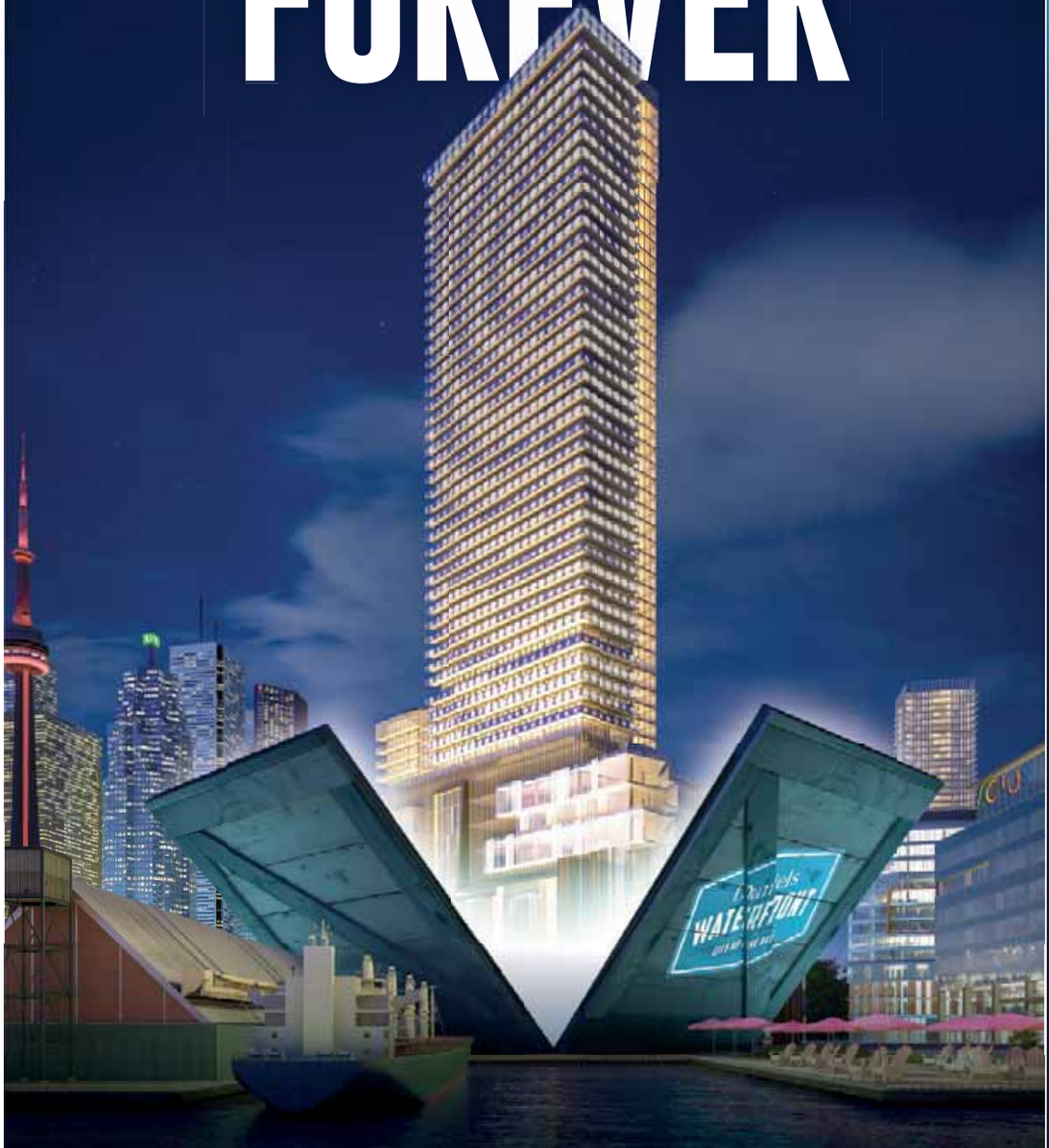

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Marquee living

THE MARQUEE TOWNHOMES

CONTRIBUTED

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

What: The Marquee Townhomes
Builder: Pinnacle International
Architect: Richmond Architects
Interiors: Tanner Hill and Associates
Location: 5-150 Little Creek Rd., Mississauga
Building: 100 luxury townhomes
Sizes: All units are 2,005 sq. ft.
Pricing: Starting at $699,000
Suites: Three- and four-bedroom floor plans
Status: Under construction
Occupancy: Fall of 2015
Sales centre: 5044 Hurontario St., Mississauga
Hours: Monday to Thursday 1 to 7 p.m. Weekends 12 to 6 p.m.
Phone: 905-568-9000
Website: pinnacleuptown.com
Email: info@pinnacleuptown.ca

Project overview

The Marquee Townhomes is the next step in Pinnacle International's master-planned community at the corner of Hurontario and Eglinton, following in the footsteps of Crystal Condominiums, the first two phases at Pinnacle Uptown.

Building amenities

Condo owners will have access to The Marquee Club, a residents-only clubhouse that offers an outdoor swimming pool, spa-like poolside loungers, an exercise facility, a multi-purpose party room and an outdoor playground for the kids.

Location and transit

The site offers convenient access to schools, parks, GO Transit, Mississauga Transit and highways 403, 401, 407 and the QEW. The newly announced Hurontario LRT will enable a quick commute to Brampton, Port Credit and all points between.

In the neighbourhood

Located in one of the most central locations of Mississauga's downtown core, there are plenty of lifestyle options with Square One Shopping Centre a short walk away, featuring everything from boutique stores to five-star restaurants. Parks, schools and community centres are also nearby.

REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1 YORKVILLE

Condo tour: Five professional Condos Plus agents take you on a tour of Toronto condos. Head over to the Re/Max office at 1170 Bay St., on Aug. 15 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Spaces are limited so RSVP soon.
CONTACT: 647-278-8888, LIMOOCHI@IDEALTORONTO.COM

2 NORTH YORK

Sales event: The Station Condos on the Subway is now offering summertime financial incentives. Visit the sales centre on Tippett Road south of Wilson Avenue.
CONTACT: 416-398-9777, THESTATIONCONDOS.COM

3 LESLIEVILLE

Open house: Here's a great little detached house in Leslieville with basement apartment and parking. Check it out at 132 Ashdale Ave., on Aug. 15 and 16 from 2 to 5 p.m.
CONTACT: CAMERON WEIR, 416-465-4545

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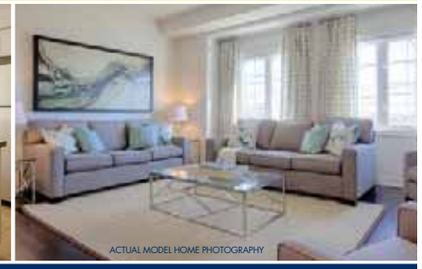

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TOO BIG TO MISS

TODAY'S ACTION • THURSDAY, AUGUST 13

SPORT

TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE

ATHLETICS
3 p.m. – Medal Rounds
CIBC Pan Am/Parapan Am Athletics Stadium

WHEELCHAIR RUGBY
3:30 p.m. – Semifinals
Mississauga Sports Centre

SWIMMING
9 a.m. | 5 p.m. – Medal Rounds
CIBC Pan Am/Parapan Am Aquatics Centre and Field House

WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL
8 a.m. | 4:15 p.m. – Preliminary Rounds
Ryerson Athletic Centre

CULTURE

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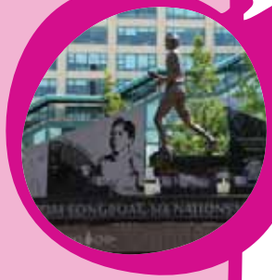
YOUNG CENTRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
7:30 p.m.



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15 YEARS | ANNÉES

TORONTO2015 PANAMANIA
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metro SPORTS

The Mariners' 10th-inning win Tuesday ensured home teams won all 15 games on the same day for the first time in MLB

IN BRIEF

Police investigation costs Kane cover of NHL 16

EA Sports is pulling Patrick Kane from the cover of its NHL 16 video game after police confirmed last week the Chicago Blackhawks star is the subject of an investigation.

Kane was to be featured on the cover alongside teammate Jonathan Toews.

EA Sports says that "in light of the ongoing investigation involving Patrick Kane, he will no longer be a spokesperson for the launch of EA Sports NHL 16." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nishikori off to solid start at men's Rogers Cup

Kei Nishikori has started the hardcourt tennis season on a roll.

The 25-year-old followed his tournament victory in Washington, D.C., last week with a 6-3, 6-3 win over Pablo Andujar to open the men's Rogers Cup on Wednesday afternoon.

It was the fourth seed's ATP Tour-leading 27th hardcourt win of the year.

Meanwhile, Rafael Nadal got his tournament started with a 7-6 (4), 6-3 win over Sergiy Stakhovsky. He next faces Mikhail Youzny, who upset ninth-seeded Gilles Simon 6-1, 6-4. THE CANADIAN PRESS

IOC won't do viral testing of Rio's Olympic waters

The International Olympic Committee ruled out conducting viral tests of Rio de Janeiro's sewage-laden waterways ahead of the 2016 Games, a top official said Wednesday, despite an Associated Press study showing dangerously high levels of disease-causing viruses at all aquatic venues, with experts saying athletes are almost certain to be exposed to pathogens.

Speaking at a news conference dominated by questions about Rio's sewage pollution problem, Olympic Games executive director Christophe Dubi said the IOC will be sticking to World Health Organization guidelines recommending only bacterial testing.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

21-year veteran, rookie anchor Blue Jays bullpen

MLB

Hawkins and Osuna at opposite ends of their careers

Roberto Osuna was taught to respect his elders, so when the Blue Jays rookie right-hander met LaTroy Hawkins in the team's clubhouse two weeks ago, he greeted him formally.

"I was like, 'It's nice to meet you, sir.'"

At 42-1/2 years old, Hawkins may be the eldest player in the majors, but he doesn't yet feel like a "sir" — and definitely not to his teammates.

Roberto Osuna TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"You can call me LaTroy or Hawk or L.T.," he told Osuna. "Anything but sir or mister."

Respectively the youngest and oldest pitchers in the big leagues, Osuna and Hawkins — who sit next to each other in the Jays' clubhouse — are at opposite ends of their careers. Osuna, who has assumed the Jays' closer role, is beginning what looks like a long and fruitful tenure in Toronto. Hawkins, who was acquired with Troy Tulowitzki from Colorado a few days before the trade deadline, is planning to retire after this, his 21st major-league season.

According to the Elias Sports Bureau, the Blue Jays are the first team since the save statistic was created in 1969 to have the league's oldest and youngest pitchers both save a game. And Hawkins is just the 13th pitcher in baseball history to earn a save against all 30 teams.

"We were just talking a few days ago," Osuna said. "He was like, 'Osuna, how old are you?' I'm like, '20' and he says, 'What year were you born in?' and I'm like, '1995' and he's like, 'WHAT?!! That was my first year in the big leagues!'"

Hawkins actually played against Osuna's uncle, Antonio, a reliever who pitched 11 years in the majors, mostly with the L.A. Dodgers.

Despite the generation gap, Hawkins and Osuna have already struck up something of a friendship.

"I don't look at guys by their age," Hawkins said. "Age doesn't mean anything in this game."

Osuna, who is just the fourth player in baseball history to earn a save before his 21st birthday, is 11-for-12 in save opportunities this season while posting a 2.09 ERA. He has shown the poise and confidence of a veteran, but he says he doesn't mind getting advice from somebody like Hawkins, who has been around the game much longer. "No, no, no," he said. "From guys like him, you try to learn as much as you can. Whatever he says, I listen. He's been so nice to me so I couldn't be more excited to have him on the team."

Despite enjoying one of the best seasons of his career and the Jays looking like bona fide contenders, Hawkins said he hasn't changed his mind about hanging up his cleats after this season. "Nah, I'm still holding strong to it," he said. "They say the best time to retire is when they don't want you to. When they want you to, it's already too late." TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

LaTroy Hawkins, 42, says he will retire once the season is over. MELISSA RENWICK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

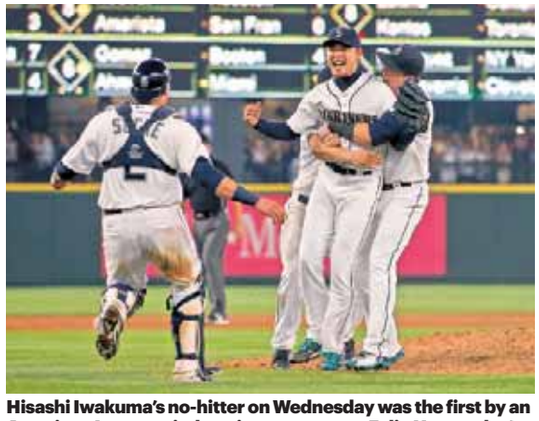
GAME RECAP

Jays push win streak to 10

The Blue Jays posted a seven-run second inning and cruised to a 10-3 win — their 10th straight — over the Athletics at Rogers Centre on Wednesday night.

Chris Colabello hit a home run and drove in four runs, while Justin Smoak also homered and had three RBIs.

Iwakuma no-hits Orioles



Hisashi Iwakuma's no-hitter on Wednesday was the first by an American League pitcher since teammate Felix Hernandez's perfect game in August 2012. OTTO GREULE JR/GETTY IMAGES

Hisashi Iwakuma became the second Japanese-born pitcher in major league history to throw a no-hitter, leading the Seattle Mariners to a 3-0 victory over the Baltimore Orioles on Wednesday.

The right-hander struck out seven and walked three in the fourth no-hitter this season and first by an American League pitcher in nearly three years. Hideo Nomo threw two big-league no-nos after starting his career in his home country of Japan.

"I was aware of it obviously, but I felt it real deep in my heart in the ninth inning," Iwakuma said through a translator. "Just focusing on one hitter at a time and I'm glad I got it done."

116

The number of pitches Iwakuma threw on Wednesday

Philadelphia's Cole Hamels — prior to his trade to Texas — Washington's Max Scherzer and San Francisco's Chris Heston all tossed no-hitters this season.

Third baseman Kyle Seager made a nifty, twisting over-the-shoulder catch in foul territory to start the ninth, but the 34-year-old Iwakuma needed little help in completing his first career complete game and the Mariners' fifth no-hitter.

Teammate Felix Hernandez's perfect game against the Tampa Bay Rays on Aug. 15, 2012, was the last time an AL pitcher did not allow a hit in a game. There have been 11 individual no-hitters and one combined no-hitter by NL pitchers since then. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tess Routliffe, shown here during an earlier race, set a Parapan Am Games record Tuesday in the S7 100-metre freestyle.
DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Routliffe captures second gold in pool

PARAPAN 2015

Mehain adds silver, Canada's swimmers just behind Brazil's

Tess Routliffe won her second gold medal at the 2015 Parapan American Games as Canada continued its impressive showing in the pool.

The native of Caledon, Ont., swam to a gold medal in the S7 100-metre freestyle Wednesday, while teammate Sarah Mehain of Vernon, B.C., took silver.

It was Routliffe's third medal of the Games, but the 16-year-old said she's still learning how to win in the pool.

"Racing, you need to have experience," said Routliffe, a dwarf, who won in a Parapan Am Games record one minute 15.46 seconds. "The experience helps you a lot because you know what you are dealing with, how to handle stress, how to handle competitors.

"The more experience I get, the more energetic I get. I think I'm taking a handle on it."

Mehain, who has cerebral palsy, led for 150 meters before Routliffe overtook her down the stretch. She finished in 1:19.48.

> **This is just giving me even more experience.**
> Swimmer Tess Routliffe

"Down the last 50 I could see Tess catching up, catching up," Mehain said. "Then she was passing me. I said 'Sarah, get your butt in gear.'"

Nydia Langill, of Mississauga, was fourth in 1:33.17.

In athletics, Pamela LeJean, of Cape Breton, N.S., won the gold medal in F53-55 women's shot put with a Parapan Am Games record throw of 4.22 metres.

Vanessa Murby, of Salt Spring Island, B.C., won the bronze medal in F11-12 women's discus with a throw of 27.02.

David Eng had 20 points and nine rebounds as Canada's men's wheelchair basketball team beat Puerto Rico 73-34 in the quarter-finals. They will face Brazil on Friday in the semis.

Elsewhere, Canada lost 8-0 to Brazil in seven-a-side soccer, and Brazil beat Canada 12-2 in men's goalball. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Priscilla Gagne faces Argentina opponent Rocio Ledesma during a judo match Wednesday in Whitby.
RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

JUDO

Breaks go Gagne's way in Whitby

"What's the very worst outcome? How badly hurt could I actually, really get?"

Priscilla Gagne, a visually impaired judoka, constantly asks herself this when evaluating her threshold for danger and actual, real pain.

Gagne, 29, absorbs the pain of broken bones. She once broke her arm rollerblading. She broke her nose, the first time, running into a bleacher during wrestling practice in high school.

> **After that break, it breaks all the time. It doesn't hurt.**
> Priscilla Gagne who has broken her nose multiple times.

"After that break, it just breaks all the time," Gagne said Wednesday. "It doesn't really hurt."

And the taped-up toe on the opening day of Parapan Am judo.

"It doesn't hurt."

What about the time she broke both her feet?

"It was just a random fluke," Gagne said of the moment, in 2011, when her opponent yanked her lapel and her foot "folded in half" beneath her. The other foot soon followed.

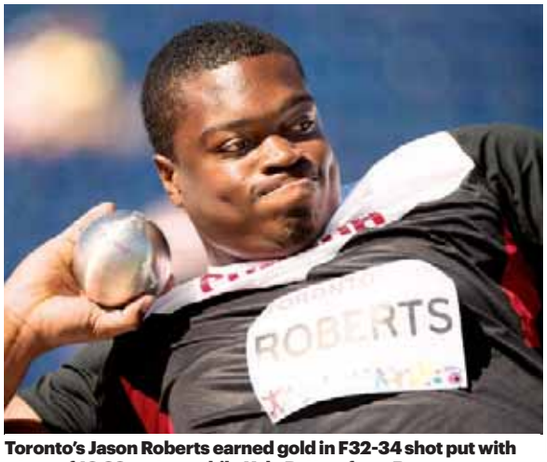
"It was kind of gross," she admitted, pointing out where bone busted through skin. "This one broke here and this one came out here … then it went back in but I couldn't bend it."

Gagne was off her feet for eight months. Combined with school and work demands, it meant she wasn't seriously training again until 2013.

Almost two years to the day she started training with Nathalie Gosselin, the Ottawa-based Gagne won a silver medal Wednesday at Whitby's Abilities Centre. She has climbed to fifth in the world in the under 52-kilogram class. And she's well placed to qualify for the 2016 Rio Paralympics.

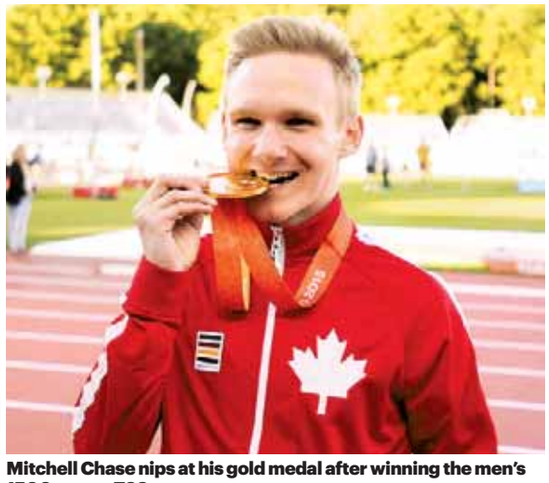
Female judokas have four minutes to take each other down. She only needed 20 seconds to beat the U.S.'s Christina Thomas in the first of a four-fight round robin.

She went on to win twice more, losing only to the eventual gold medal winner, Brazilian Michele Ferreira.
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Toronto's Jason Roberts earned gold in F32-34 shot put with a toss of 10.33 metres while Kyle Pettey, from Brampton, claimed the bronze (8.93). DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Leah Ainslie Robinson won the bronze medal in the women's 200-metre T37. DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS



Mitchell Chase nips at his gold medal after winning the men's 1500-metre T38. DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

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RECIPE Roasted Corn and Split Pea Salad with Grilled Shrimp

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Rose Reisman
rosereisman.com
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Ready in
Prep time: 15 minutes
Cook time: 25 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1/2 cup dry green lentils
- 2 corn cobs (husks removed)
- 8 oz large deveined and shelled shrimp
- 1 cup diced red bell pepper
- 1 cup grape tomatoes, sliced in half
- 2 small baby cucumbers, diced
- 1/3 cup diced red onions

Dressing
- 3 Tbsp lemon juice
- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 Tbsp maple syrup
- 1 tsp minced garlic
- 1 tsp jalapeno (seeds can be used)
- Salt and pepper
- 1/3 cup chopped cilantro or basil

Directions

1. In a pot of boiling water, cook lentils just until tender, about 25 to 30 minutes. Do not overcook. Drain and rinse with cold water. Add to serving bowl.

2. Meanwhile, grill or sauté corn cobs for about five minutes. Cool and cut kernels off corn. Add to lentils.

3. Grill or sauté shrimp until just cooked, about five minutes. Set aside.

4. Add bell peppers, tomatoes, cucumber and onions.

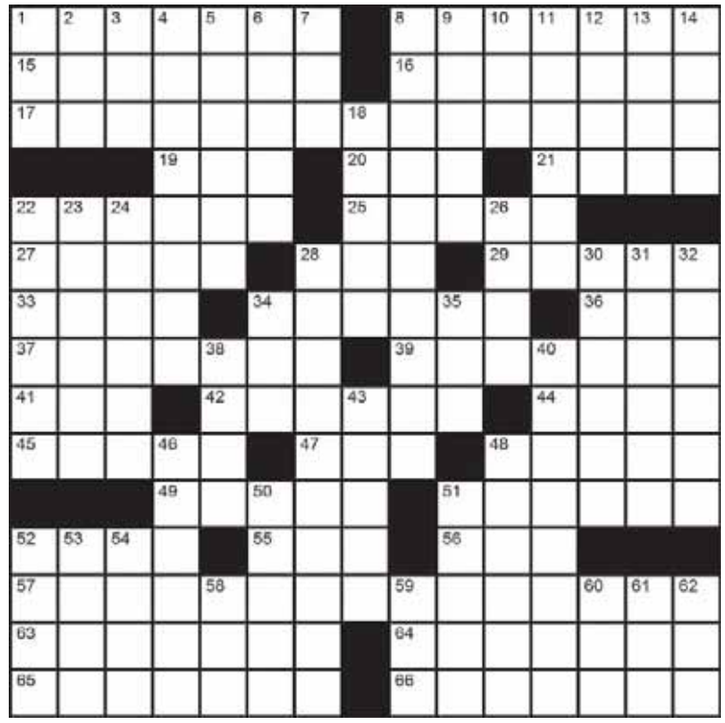
5. Dressing: combine all ingredients and pour over salad. Garnish with shrimp.

Nutrition per serving
- Calories 124
- Protein 12 g
- Carbohydrates 9 g
- Total fat 5 g
- Cholesterol 86 mg
- Sodium 87 mg

PHOTO: ROSE REISMAN

CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Way to serve apple pie: 3 mots
8. In an unflappable manner
15. Piano performance
16. BC: Skeena River city
17. Annual summer music festival in Ontario, Havelock __ __
19. Minute bit
20. Band's blaster, briefly
21. 'Kind' suffix
22. Kitchen storage area
25. Fern 'seed'
27. Brings up
28. Tilling tool
29. "Vega$" star Robert
33. Great Lake
34. Supper, cute-style
36. "O Sole __"
37. Phones a radio show: 2 wds.
39. Painter (born in 1541 on the island of Crete) of the Opening of the Fifth Seal: 2 wds.
41. Driver's 4x4, commonly
42. "Snow Falling on __" (1999)
44. Mountain stat.
45. "__ firma!" (Land!)
47. Oz Auntie's namesakes
48. Soup scooper
49. Space shadow
51. Holidays, slang-style
52. "Such a shame."
55. Roman Myth: Household deity
56. Shakespearean suffix
57. Bit of "Delta Dawn" by Tanya Tucker who is on the line up for #17-Across: "...say he was a-meeting you here today / To take you to his __ __ __ __?"
63. Debit card service in Canada
64. Emphasize, as an important point
65. Say again
66. Most brief

DOWN
1. Curve
2. Zodiac sign
3. Prefix with 'puncture'
4. "__ Gypsy": 1973 hit for #8-Down
5. Aquatic mammals
6. Mr. __, Pride and Prejudice gent
7. Cathedral city
8. Band from Calgary set to play at #17-Across (Trivia! Their hits include the song at #4-Down and "Wild Eyes")
9. Musical pace
10. Royal symbol
11. Clothing creases ceaser
12. Concern
13. Hotshots
14. Sheltered sides
18. Mr. Bateman
22. Chopped ahead of time
23. Get the drink to fizz
24. Hammer user
26. Ladder step
28. Deterrent/progress obstruction [var. sp.]
30. Shoes collector Ms. Marcos
31. Actress Ms. Tyson
32. Horse feet
34. Flatline
35. Elles opposites
38. Con
40. Those with their arms extended trying to grasp something
43. Canada's motto: '__ Usque Ad Mare'
46. __ apple
48. Make frothy with soap
50. Belly swelling
51. Chevrolet car since 1953, cool-style
52. Mideast chieftain, variantly
53. Street for Lois?
54. Industrious insects
58. Mr. Gershwin
59. Baby bug
60. Freelancer's encl.
61. Chess pieces, e.g.
62. Nevertheless

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
This may be the most productive time of the year for you but before you take on a new project make sure you know what is involved and what you will be expected to invest in the way of time, energy and money.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
The less you reveal about your true intentions today the better. You might be tempted to brag about your plans but if you do you are likely to regret it. Keep them to yourself.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Focus your attention on one specific thing today. It may not be easy but it must be done if you want to get an important task finished before the weekend.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Don't be tempted to change your ways just to keep up with the latest fads and fashions. Yes, of course, the old ways are not always the best but, on this occasion they are the safest.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
No matter how hard you try to engage certain people in conversation today you won't succeed. Don't take it personally — they have so many things on their plate at the moment.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
It may seem as if you have been working hard for no good reason but don't give up on it yet because some kind of breakthrough is imminent. If you turn back now you will never know what might have been.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Something you have been looking forward to may have to be pushed back, but later you will realize the delay was a blessing in disguise. More preparation is needed.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
It will annoy you when a friend or work colleague gets something wrong because they have not done their homework. Let them know in subtle ways that they have let themselves down.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
Some of life's lessons are easier to learn than others. Bear that thought in mind today. Any lessons you learn now will pay for themselves before the month is through.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Be cautious when doing business with people you don't know and cannot completely trust. Someone who seems honest may be trying to trick you. Don't you dare fall for it.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Your patience may be wearing thin with a certain individual but don't lose your temper. It could be that they have serious problems they are trying to hide behind a brave face.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
There is no point blaming yourself for something that went wrong — it was bound to happen. Start rebuilding. This time, make sure the foundations are strong.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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